



PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
MAY 2014

AND OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OCTOBER 2014

ASSEMBLY OFFICERS 2014

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Clerk of Assembly

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**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
COMMISSION OF ASSEMBLY
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF VICTORIA
MAY 2014**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA

At Melbourne, and within the Werner Brodbeck Hall, Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, on Tuesday 6 May 2014 at 10.30am.

1. Constitution

The Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the previous General Assembly (BB 2013 min. 135); following the reading of John 4:1-26, Moderator's chaplain Rev David Brown led the Commission of Assembly with the exposition of this passage and the singing of a hymn, and constituted the Commission of Assembly with prayer.

2. Roll

The Clerk intimated that the Roll of the Commission of Assembly consisted of those members whose names are on the Roll of the General Assembly, October 2013, and who remain qualified to be members of the Assembly.

3. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk intimated that the following apologies for non-attendance had been received:

Ministers: Keith Allen, Ivan Barker, Peter Barclay, Keith Bell, Neil Benfell, Robert Boan, Phillip Chang, Rob Duncanson, Kyung Ee, Miles Fagan, Wally Gear, Marvin Hagans, Martin Hanse, Neil Harvey, Ben Johnson, Ian Johnstone, Hui Lim, Philip Mercer, Len Pearce, Bill Medley, James Playfoot, Martin de Pyle, John Rickard, Frank Savage, Gary Stephens, John Sutherland, Peter Swinn, Mark Tonkin, Grant Vayne, Michael Wishart, John Woodward, Wally Zurrer.

Elders: John Angelico, Robert Belcher, Phil Betts, Elizabeth Cutler, Edward de Zilwa, James Finster, Tom Fleming, Russell Gray, David Hayward, Noel Johnston, Robert Prout, Paul Ridgewell, David Selman, John Singleton, Bert Stasse, Peter Winstanley.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Associations

Rev Douglas Roberson moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Associate Rev David Currie, minister of the Church of Scotland and assistant minister at The Scots' Church Melbourne.

The motion was seconded and approved.

5. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Determine the hours of meeting to be 10:30am to the finish of business, with: lunch 12:30pm – 1:30pm, refreshments 3:40pm – 4:00pm, dinner 5:30pm – 6:30pm, as necessary.
2. Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:

20 minutes in total for:

Conveners and seconders moving deliverances as a whole
Petitioners—stating the petition
Appellants—stating the appeal
Respondents to appeals
Question time

15 minutes in total for:

Overturists—stating the overture

5 minutes for:

Appellants in reply
Movers of substantive motions and amendments
All other speakers.

3. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Commission of Assembly consisting of:
Rev Philip Daffy (Convener), Clinton Le Page, Matthew James.
Elders Reg Butcher, Doug Fraser.
4. Permit committee conveners and chairpersons who are not members of the Commission of Assembly to address the Commission of Assembly when their respective committee's report and deliverance is before the Commission of Assembly.
5. Approve the Order of Business.

The motion was seconded and approved.

6. Election of Moderator-Designate

The Clerk's report was laid on the table and received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Elect Rev David Alfred Robert Brown, minister of Pioneers Presbyterian Church, Cheltenham, as Moderator-Designate for the 2014 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator congratulated Mr Brown on his appointment.

7. Board of Investment and Finance

The report of the Board of Investment and Finance was laid on the table and received.

In the absence of the Chairman (Elder Edward de Zilwa) Rev Mark Smith moved the deliverance, noting that he was moving clause 4 in its amended form:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Fund the Safe Church Unit by a charge to parishes based on the number of communicants and adherents as reported to the Ministry Development Committee according to the following table:

Number of Communicants and Adherents	Charge
Up to 50	\$395
51 to 100	\$790
101 to 200	\$1,185
201 to 300	\$1,580
301 to 400	\$1,975
Above 400	\$2,370

2. Approve the provisional budget of the Social Services Committee for 2014/15.
3. Authorise the Board of Investment and Finance to approve the final budget of the Social Services Committee when it becomes available.

4. Request the Church Planting Committee to report fully to the October Assembly detailing the current church plant funding model (while continuing to comply with all of the agreements reached with the BIF about their funding model), the role and job description of the Church Planter Evangelist and his concurrent position as minister/church planter at Valley PC, especially considering whether it remains appropriate for the position to be fully funded by the Assembly from committee funds.
5. Approve the Committee Budgets for 2014/15 as presented for all committees other than the Social Services Committee.
6. Remind committees that approval of the budget is not the same as authorisation of expenditure, and that committees are required to appropriately consider and evaluate expenditure in accordance with the policies of the Church.
7. Direct committees to follow the policies and procedures of the Church when approving expenditure of Assembly funds for which the committee is responsible.
8. Allocate the funds of the former Seaford congregation (approximately \$54,000) to the Aspendale congregation for its general purposes.

The motion was seconded and approved.

8. Federal Vision ad hoc Committee

The report of the Federal Vision ad hoc Committee was laid on the table and received.

Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Commend the committee for its thorough, discerning and helpful work.
2. Refer people to the revised report as a helpful source of information on the Federal Vision.
3. Make the revised report available to all upon request.
4. Thank and discharge the committee.

Rev Richard Wilson sought leave to move that the Commission approve the placing of the report on the PCV Website.

Leave was not granted.

Rev Dr Douglas Milne asked for time to consider an ambiguity in the last sentence of his committee's report.

It was agreed to adjourn the debate (min. 11).

9. General Mission Program Committee

The report of the General Mission Program Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Norm Sharp, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Approve the General Mission Program for the financial year 2014/15 as follows:

	2014/15 \$
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:	
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.)	40,000
State News	0
Theological Education – Bursary Fund	62,388
Theological Education (One third budget expenditure of Training Officer)	16,556
SUB-TOTAL: ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES	118,944
INTERDENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES:	
Australian Christian Lobby	11,400
ACCESS Ministries	25,400
Council for Chaplains in Tertiary Institutions	500
Victorian Council of Churches: Displan	600
SUB-TOTAL: INTERDENOMINATIONAL	37,900
OTHER GRANTS:	
Presbyterian Inland Mission	6,000
SUB-TOTAL: OTHER GRANTS	6,000
GRAND TOTAL	162,844

- Resolve that the formula for the allocation of the General Mission Program to presbyteries as approved at the Commission of Assembly 2013 min. 10.4 should continue for the year 2014/15.
- Approve the allocation of the total General Mission Program for the financial year 2014/15 as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of total	2014/15 \$
Ballarat	4.27%	6,948
Benalla	5.61%	9,136
Flinders	13.35%	21,740
Geelong	4.00%	6,513
Gippsland	4.30%	7,000
Kilnoorat	6.77%	11,029
Maroondah	6.86%	11,174
Melbourne East	20.03%	32,624
Melbourne North	14.95%	24,345
Melbourne West	16.66%	27,124
North Western Victoria	3.20%	5,211
TOTAL	100.00%	162,844

- Request presbyteries to allocate the General Mission Program to their several parishes, and instruct them to advise parishes in writing of their respective allocated amounts, and further, to advise the Church Office of such allocations.
- Request presbyteries to recognise that the total of the approved General Mission Program, and thus the amount allocated to the presbyteries, is the minimum amount required by the Committees of the General Assembly to perform their respective purposes, and therefore encourage parishes to subscribe more to the GMP where their circumstances permit or where special efforts provide additional funds.

6. Request presbyteries to ask parishes to pay their GMP allocations in full early in the financial year 2014/15, or where this is not possible, to pay the amounts by monthly or quarterly instalments.
7. Encourage our ministers and elders to give particular attention in their public ministry, to the biblical teaching on the responsibility of generous giving for the furtherance of the Gospel, setting aside a particular Sunday in each congregation for this purpose.
8. Encourage boards of management to accept that the principle of Presbyterianism is one of mutual support and responsibility and not of independence from one another, and therefore when dealing with the matter of their contributions to the GMP, to take into account the importance of supporting the collective effort of our Church.

The motion was seconded and approved.

10. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

The report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Dennis Wright, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Remind presbyteries to follow-up the submission of Annual Parish Reports by the due date so that the committee can do the work the Assembly expects.
2. Remind presbyteries to take note of the need to review and process all grant and subsidy applications and keep the record of ministers' long service leave up to date and inform the convener of any changes.
3. Declare that as from 1 July 2014:
 - a. The minimum remuneration be \$50,532.00.
 - b. The minimum stipend component of minimum remuneration be \$33,072.00.
 - c. The maximum non cash benefit component of minimum remuneration be \$17,460.00.
 - d. The sustentation qualifying stipend be \$22,922.00 p.a., thus making the maximum grant available \$10,080.00.
 - e. The additional amount for travel over 6,000kms of the distance agreed between the minister and his parish as his annual distance of travel on church related matters increase to 49 cents per km.
 - f. The rate of contribution to superannuation be maintained at 15% of actual remuneration for the year commencing 1 July 2014.
 - g. Supply preaching fees for the year commencing 1 July 2014 increase by approximately 5%, namely:
 - \$130 for one service;
 - \$150 for two services;
 - \$178 for three services, using the same sermon on the same day;
 - \$236 for two services or more, with separate sermons; and
 - that the travel reimbursement for supply preachers be increased to 49 cents per km.
4. Set the Long Service Leave Levy for the financial year 2014-15 at \$350 per parish per minister, to be paid by:
 - a. every parish whether there is a settled minister, a home missionary or a vacancy; and

- b. any General Assembly committee that is responsible for the employment of any church worker who is entitled to receive Long Service Leave under the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee regulations.
5. Continue the subsidy of up to 25% of superannuation per parish per annum for a further year (2014-15).

The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Federal Vision ad hoc Committee

It was agreed to resume debate (min. 8).

Rev Dr Douglas Milne asked that the final sentence of the committee's report be clarified by the deletion of the word "either" following the words "Far better to say", and by the deletion of the words "or that" following the reference "(1 Thess 1:4-6);", and the insertion in their place of the word "but", so that the sentence would read "Far better to say that if Ishmael and Esau were already regenerated then they would have continued infallibly in a lifetime of believing obedience (1 Thess 1:4-6); but by not continuing to improve the meaning of their circumcision through life-long faith and perseverance they gave clear evidence that they had never been regenerated in the first place (Heb 10:35-39, 12:15-17)."

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Receive the report in its amended form.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev Cameron Garret sought leave to move to amend clause 2 by the insertion of the after the words "revised report" of the words "on the PCV Website as well as by other means".

Leave was granted.

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Amend clause 2 by the insertion after the words "revised report" of the words "on the PCV Website as well as by other means", so that the clause would read, "Refer people to the revised report on the PCV Website as well as by other means as a helpful source of information on the Federal Vision;"

The amendment was approved.

Rev Ken Martin sought leave to move to amend clause 2 by the addition of the words "and adopt".

Leave was not granted.

The amended motion was put:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Commend the committee for its thorough, discerning and helpful work.
2. Refer people to the revised report on the PCV Website as well as by other means as a helpful source of information on the Federal Vision.
3. Make the revised report available to all upon request.
4. Thank and discharge the committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

12. Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve Fund

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve Fund was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Andrew Bray, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was moved.

Rev Graham Nicholson sought leave to move to amend clause 2 by the insertion of the words “and those concerns raised during the debate which may be submitted to the committee.”

Leave was granted.

Rev Graham Nicholson moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Amend clause 2 by the insertion after the words “October 2013 Declarative Statement” of the words “and those concerns raised during the debate which may be submitted to the committee,” so that the clause would read, “Authorise the ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee to frame a revision of appropriate PCV rules and BIF regulations in the light of the October 2013 Declarative Statement and those concerns raised during the debate which may be submitted to the committee, such revision that will enable the General Assembly to achieve a more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The amendment was approved.

Clause 2 as amended was approved.

Clauses 3-4 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

1. Receive the 15-page Declarative Statement ‘Holding and dealing with property within the church’ dated October 2013.
2. Authorise the ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee to frame a revision of appropriate PCV rules and BIF regulations in the light of the October 2013 Declarative Statement and those concerns raised during the debate which may be submitted to the committee, such revision that will enable the General Assembly to achieve a more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
3. Instruct the ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee to consult with both the BIF and the Code Committee in the framing of any new rules and regulations, with the objective of consensus prior to presentation to the General Assembly.
4. Encourage the ad hoc Sites Reserve Committee to complete its work in time for the October 2014 General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Social Services Committee

The report of the Social Services Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Robert Lowe, moved the deliverance:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Approve the Social Services Committee project to build 8 new independent living units, an Administrative building and infrastructure for the cost of \$6 million.

The motion was seconded and approved.

14. Petition 1 – from Presbytery of Gippsland re: Ordination of Mr Gary Wentworth

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

The Clerk moved:

(1) That the Commission of Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved:

(2) That the Commission of Assembly:

Authorise, under Rule 4A:49, the Presbytery of Gippsland to ordain Mr Gary Wentworth.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved:

(3) That the Commission of Assembly:

Grant Mr Gary Wentworth, following his ordination, a seat on the Presbytery of Gippsland for as long as he continues ministry at the Home Mission Station of Leongatha or until he qualifies under any of the regular provisions of Rule 4:3.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Commission of Assembly's decision, and removed the petitioners from the bar.

15. Petition 2 – from Presbytery of Ballarat re: Rev Hugh Price, membership of the Presbytery

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

The Clerk moved:

(1) That the Commission of Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved:

(2) That the Commission of Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved:

(3) That the Commission of Assembly:

Authorise the Presbytery of Ballarat, given the special circumstances, to grant Rev Hugh Price ministerial membership of Presbytery for as long as his appointment as Home Missionary to Carisbrook-Castlemaine continues or until he qualifies under any of the regular provisions of Rule 4:3.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator informed the petitioners of the Commission of Assembly's decision, and removed the petitioners from the bar.

16. Ordination of licentiates and seat on Presbytery for ministers appointed to Home Mission Stations

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Request the Code Committee to bring to the 2014 General Assembly an amendment to the Code which would enable presbyteries to ordain licentiates appointed to Home Mission Stations and grant them a seat on the Presbytery and to grant a seat on Presbytery to ministers of the PCA appointed to Home Mission Stations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

17. Commission to confirm minutes

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Appoint the Moderator and the Clerks of Assembly a Special Commission to scrutinise the minutes of this Commission of Assembly with the power to make any necessary corrections and to confirm them, and that a copy thereof be sent to members of the General Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

18. Ballot Committee discharged

The Clerk moved:

That the Commission of Assembly:

Thank and discharge the Ballot Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

19. Dissolution

The business of the Commission of Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator closed the meeting with prayer and the benediction.

CLERKS
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

Certificate

I certify that the minutes of this Commission, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 17 thereof.



Rt Rev David John Palmer
Moderator

REPORTS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min. 5)

The Business Committee has met to receive and review all papers proposed to be submitted to the Commission of Assembly and is satisfied that they are duly attested, drawn up and in proper form and competent.

Question and speakers' times

In the seventh sederunt of the 2013 General Assembly, the Assembly set a limit of 20 minutes on question times. The Business Committee is again recommending this limit, and since it is a new practice, highlights it via this report. The Committee envisages that a question time could be extended by a resolution of the Assembly to that effect after a motion moved without notice (paralleling the practice of extending a speaker's time).

The committee has also reformatted the deliverance clause determining times for speakers, and is proposing that committees moving deliverances as a whole be given a total time of 20 minutes (rather than specifying individual times for conveners and seconders).

Outline of business

The Committee will present a proposed agenda at the start of the Commission. As a guide, the Committee will seek to arrange business according to the following outline.

1. Devotions and Constitution
2. Roll
3. Apologies
4. Associations
5. Business Committee, p1 (del p2)
6. Election of Moderator-Designate, p3, NOM A1
7. Board of Investment and Finance, p31, (del p35)
8. Federal Vision ad hoc Committee, p4, NOM A2
9. General Mission Program Committee, p84 (del p86)
10. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, p92 (del p93)
11. Sites Reserve Committee, p95 (del p96)
12. Social Services Committee, p113 (del p113)
13. Petition 1: Presbytery of Gippsland—Ordination of Mr Gary Wentworth, p 114, NOM A3
14. Petition 2: Presbytery of Ballarat—re Rev Hugh Price, p115, NOM A4
15. Commission to confirm minutes, NOM A5
16. Ballot Committee discharged, NOM A6
17. Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

NOMINATION FOR MODERATOR-DESIGNATE (Min. 6)

The following person was nominated by presbyteries for Moderator-Designate:

Rev David A R Brown – Presbyteries of Melbourne North and Geelong.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min. 7)

Safe Church Funding

In October 2013, the General Assembly agreed to:

Fund the cost of the Safe Church Unit by an annual levy on parishes which is to be the budget approved at the next Commission of Assembly and thereafter to be adjusted to match actual expenditure. Minute 64.10, 2013 Blue Book p113

The proposed expenditure budget for the coming year for safe church is \$66,700. The insurance costs are allocated to parishes based on the number of communicants and adherents as reported to the Ministry Development Committee. On that basis, the cost of funding Safe Church would be allocated to parishes as follows:

Number of Communicants and Adherents	Charge
Up to 50	\$395
51 to 100	\$790
101 to 200	\$1,185
201 to 300	\$1,580
301 to 400	\$1,975
Above 400	\$2,370

Committee Budgets

In accordance with the Board of Investment and Finance Regulations the BIF presents the Committee Budgets for approval. These were reviewed by the BIF prior to being submitted to the GMP Committee for its consideration in cases where GMP was requested.

Budgets are considered in terms of being sustainable and reflecting good stewardship of resources. In some instances it may be appropriate for a committee to propose a budget with a significant deficit and this is the case for a number of budgets. Each budget has been considered on its merits taking account of the circumstances relevant to each committee.

The BIF encourages committees in future years to include in their budget submissions explanatory notes as well as the financial projections, in order to better explain the thinking of the committee.

There is a common misconception that having the budget approved means that the expenditure itself is approved. This is not the case. Committees are still required to appropriately consider any expenditure and approve it under the terms of Rule 5:33. The BIF recently issued to committees a document detailing Committee Payment Procedures which is also available for download from the PCV website. The BIF encourages all committees to follow these procedures when requesting payment.

Church Planting Committee

Last year the Church Planting Committee budget was presented and approved on a calendar year basis. Experience has shown that although this has had some benefits it has created a number of difficulties. The budget this year is presented using the financial year ending in June, which is consistent with the presentation of other

committees. For this year only, the current year approved budget has been constructed from the parts of each of the previous two years' approved budgets. Other arrangements have been put in place to assist the committee to work internally on a calendar year basis.

The presentation of the Church Planting Committee budget is much simplified compared to previous years. This is primarily a result of the committee's decision to fund church plants by way of an all encompassing operating grant and allow the church plant to manage its financial affairs including payment of the church planter. This is in contrast to previous years where the committee has employed the church planter itself and met the costs associated with that employment. The committee also provides funding for startup costs including capital purchases in the first year of the church plant. These changes are supported by the BIF and have resolved a number of issues inherent in previous funding models.

Among those issues is the desire of the committee to reduce its financial support to church plants from year to year which is difficult when the committee employs the church planter itself and is therefore responsible for the full costs associated with the employment. Last year the committee's proposal to address this was to include in its budget a reimbursement back to the committee to give the effect of an appropriate reduction in financial support while the committee bore the full employment costs. That model has been abandoned in the current year's budget presentation and is no longer generally needed under the new funding model.

However, the Valley PC church plant is in a unique position which in the opinion of the BIF has not properly been addressed through the recent changes. The committee budget presented last year showed a reimbursement of \$59,000 from Valley PC back to the committee for the 2014 calendar year. The committee is now proposing that there be no reimbursement for 14/15 and is seeking to vary the current budget (13/14) as well to reverse the effect of what was agreed last year. Unlike other church plants who are responsible to meet the cost of the church planter themselves with assistance from the committee through the operating grant, the church planter at Valley PC, being also the PCV Church Planter Evangelist, is fully funded by the Assembly.

The BIF understands that the Church Planter Evangelist is engaged for some part of his time in promoting and supporting the general work of Church Planting on behalf of the Assembly and Committee and it is appropriate that the committee should fund this. However, it seems anomalous to fund the entire position and lock in an effective operating grant to the church plant which is not available to other church plants.

The BIF is therefore recommending that the Commission:

- a) Approve the Church Planting Committee budget for 2014/15 as presented and note that there is no reimbursement from the Valley PC to the committee included in this budget.
- b) Request the Church Planting Committee to report fully to the October Assembly detailing the current church planting model (while continuing to comply with all of the agreements reached with the BIF about their funding model), the role and job description of the Church Planter Evangelist and his concurrent position as minister/church planter at Valley PC, especially considering whether it remains appropriate for the position to be fully funded by the Assembly from committee funds.

Theological Education Committee

The TEC has reduced its reliance on GMP to fund the costs of the Training Officer this year so that it is now absorbing 50% of the cost within its own budget. METRO continue to provide one third of the funding and GMP one sixth. It is expected that in 2015/16, there will be no GMP funding and in 2016/17 there will be no further METRO funding.

There have been a number of new candidate enrolments in 2014 which is encouraging. It is the nature of education that candidates enrol for three or four years then graduate and exit the college. The built-in turnover makes the challenge of growing the tuition fee income all the more difficult. While the enrolments in 2014 are encouraging, in 2013 no new candidates enrolled. This followed six candidates exiting the college in 2012. Consequently the income to the TEC tends to fluctuate from one year to the next. The projected income for 2014/15 is 6% higher than the income for 2012/13 but 5% lower than it was in 2011/12, although income from tuition fees has increased by 7% since 2011/12.

Expenses generally increase from year to year and this year they are budgeted to increase by 9%. The TEC has been in deficit for some years and the gap is widening. Despite the recent deficits, the cash position has been maintained over recent years. This means that the provision of funds to replace ageing buildings is not being set aside. This cannot continue indefinitely. Further funds for any capital works will need to be found from sources other than the present TEC funds.

The BIF and TEC are working closely to monitor the financial position of the college and maintain appropriate control of expenditure. The ongoing financial viability of the college is a matter of concern to the BIF and will be the subject of further consideration with the TEC in the coming year.

State News

The State News Committee submitted a budget without any request for funding from GMP. This was possible as a result of the work of the committee in negotiating a cost-effective production of *Fellow Workers* in conjunction with other agencies of the Church. They are to be commended for their responsible and prudent stewardship of resources.

Social Services

The budget presented by the Social Services Committee is a provisional budget. The final budget is due to be completed within the next month. The Social Services Committee and Kirkbrae CEO are working to bring forward their planning next year which will see that a final budget can be presented to the Commission of Assembly for approval. The BIF is recommending that the provisional budget for 2014/15 be approved and that the BIF be authorised to approve the final budget when it is presented.

Budget Presentation

Regarding the overall presentation of the budgets, some committees have provided a revised projection of income and expenditure for the current year. This updated information provided a more accurate financial picture based on the new information but the original budget for 2013/14 remains as the only approved budget. Committees are therefore reminded that where they wish to spend funds which are

not in the 2013/14 budget as initially approved, they should seek approval under the provisions of BIF regulation 5(g)(ii).

It will be noted that in the columns on the far right of each page, projections are included for two further years beyond 2014/15. This has been done to assist in assessing the ongoing viability of various programs from a financial perspective and gives an indication of the sustainability of current expenditure proposals. However, it is only the columns headed '2014/2015 Proposed' that are being submitted for approval by the Commission at this time.

In view of the complexity of the budgets, the BIF would appreciate written notice of any questions being given to the General Manager before the Wednesday prior to the meeting of the Commission.

Additional Expenditure

The BIF has approved the following amendments to committee budgets in accordance with BIF regulation 5(g)(ii):

BIF Minute Committee Amount \$			Purpose
285/13	APWM	Nil	Variation in purpose to broaden STAMP mission travel to include other related expenses within the same budget

The BIF commends the APWM Committee for their diligence in observing the regulations and seeking approval for this variation.

Emergency Funding

The BIF approved emergency funding of \$1,500 to replace the armchairs and coffee table in the Clerk's office under the provisions authorised by the Assembly in 2005 (Min 83.5 2005 BB p88).

Property matters

Approval was given under BIF Reg. 9 (a) for the following urgent property transactions

- Extension of the Lease of the Melton manse
- Lease of land at Lexton
- Lease of the Swan Hill manse

The BIF is aware of a number of instances where leases have been entered into without regard to the regulations of the church and by people who are not authorised to enter into such transactions. Some Presbyteries have in recent times corrected such instances, which is to be commended. The regulations of the church are designed to ensure that church property is not alienated from the church and is available for ministry purposes when needed under the terms of the trusts on which it is held. Individuals who sign leases or other contracts without authority put themselves and their personal assets at risk. A flowchart outlining the process when leasing church property is included in the Code Book at page 231.

To assist anyone needing guidance, the BIF has loaded various documents relating to property transactions and other matters on the PCV website. This information can be found under the tab “BIF and TC” and then downloaded.

Seaford Funds

In October 2011 the Assembly agreed to dissolve the Seaford congregation (minute 98, 2011 Blue Book page 141). BIF regulation 8 in relation to Deceased Congregations states: “The Board shall take steps to see that any monies held for all or some of the purposes of a congregation that has ceased to exist be forwarded to The Presbyterian Church of Victoria Trusts Corporation to be dealt with by it according to law.”

This refers not to real property which is dealt with according to regulation 10 (c) and (d), but other property. The Seaford congregation had general funds of approximately \$54,000 at the time it was dissolved. After consultation with the Law Agent and Presbytery, the BIF is recommending that these funds be allocated to the Aspendale congregation.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1050	Bequests	-	-	28,973	-	-	-	-
1080	General Mission Program	193,699	207,153	174,400	207,153	162,844	160,000	160,000
1160	Donations & Gifts	5,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
1359&1358	Interest Common Fund General and Assembly Hall	481,669	479,000	337,068	508,000	507,000	501,000	503,000
1359	Interest Transfer ex Fraser Trust	53,392	31,500	20,618	37,822	32,600	35,200	36,700
1501	Management Fees	143,968	146,587	101,054	151,581	155,371	159,255	164,032
1601	Rental Trusts Corporation	350	570	280	420	570		
	Safe Church funding from congregations					66,700	68,368	70,077
1640	Scots Church Property Trust	92,161	75,000	42,786	85,000	87,600	90,200	92,900
1650	Sundry Income	115	-	5,655	5,655	-		
1652	Archival Fees	823	1,000	450	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1654	Assembly Lunch Income	-	1,000	1,118	-	-	1,000	1,000
Total Income		971,177	941,810	712,402	996,631	1,013,685	1,016,022	1,028,709
Expenditure								
1. Personnel Related Expenses								
2810	Salaries & Wages	300,311	314,201	233,888	359,209	369,354	379,753	392,544
2640	Non Cash Benefits	10,620	10,886	8,890	3,540	-	-	-
2245	Fringe Benefits (Employee)	31,628	32,100	21,400	42,800	48,150	48,150	48,150
2550	Long Service Leave	6,674	7,280	12,893	21,500	9,400	9,635	9,924
2870	Superannuation	32,580	34,330	24,755	37,623	39,862	40,975	42,344
2830	Staff Amenities	1,046	900	742	900	1,000	1,000	1,000
2220	Education & Training	380	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2250	Fringe Benefits Tax	13,813	15,100	12,500	20,133	22,650	22,650	22,650
2541	Manse Energy - Clerk	1,789	2,000	1,930	1,930	-	-	-
2140	Consultancy	0	-	1,295	1,295	1,000	-	-
2793	Housing Allowance	23,400	23,400	7,800	7,800	-	-	-
2930	Temporary Staff	100	1,000	-	1,000	1,600	1,600	1,600
2950	WorkCover Levy	3,126	3,329	3,439	3,708	3,908	4,001	4,115
2955	Disability Insurance	793	816	750	750	750	773	796
2920	Travelling Expenses	109	1,000	30	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Personnel Related Expenses		426,369	447,341	330,312	504,188	499,674	510,536	525,123

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
2. Office Related Expenses								
2010	Accounting & Audit Fees	24,868	24,255	17,576	24,255	26,000	27,300	28,665
2130	Computer & Software Costs	3,289	2,000	925	2,000	2,500	2,750	3,000
2180	Depreciation - Furniture & Equipment	2,267	2,200	1,042	2,200	2,200	2,200	2,200
2280	General Expenses	226	500	85	500	500	500	500
2399	Insurance Public Liability etc	3,456	3,500	3,739	3,739	4,001	4,281	4,581
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	10,388	10,000	4,923	10,000	10,500	11,000	11,500
2760	Maintenance Office Equipment	95	200	80	200	200	200	200
2910	Telephone & Fax	6,912	11,000	5,024	8,000	8,000	8,500	9,000
Total Office Related Expenses		51,502	53,655	33,395	50,894	53,901	56,731	59,646
3. Grants								
2290	Grants outside PCOV - Kilmore	(54,000)	25,000	-	-	-	-	-
2292	Grants PWMU	10,746	12,000	7,713	12,000	12,000	12,360	12,731
2311	General Mission Programme Distribution	193,699	207,153	174,400	207,153	162,844	160,000	160,000
Total Grants		150,445	244,153	182,113	219,153	174,844	172,360	172,731
4. Property Related Expenses								
2120	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	-	1,000	120	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2391	Insurance Fire & General	91	200	82	100	100	100	100
2540	Light Power & Heating	2,242	2,600	1,658	2,600	2,700	2,835	2,977
Total Property Related Expenses		2,333	3,800	1,859	3,700	3,800	3,935	4,077
5. Assembly Related Expenses								
2048	Church Architect	2,574	2,000	360	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2285	Committee Expenses - Travel	230	400	210	400	600	600	600
2302	General Assembly - The Fellowship	5,769	2,000	4,806	4,000	5,000	2,500	2,500
2300	General Assembly week - Expenses	9,846	11,000	7,014	11,000	10,000	10,000	12,000
2300	Ministers Wives Dinner	-	1,100	1,600	1,600	1,100	1,100	1,100
2131	Website Hosting	2,782	3,198	1,855	2,780	2,900	2,973	3,062
2350	Honoraria	3,605	3,854	3,450	3,750	4,000	4,100	4,223
2270	General Assembly Australia Expenses	35,253	38,000	37,229	76,000	40,000	42,000	80,000
2705	Printing, Postage & Stationery	15,221	15,375	10,987	15,375	15,500	15,888	16,364
2921	Travel Expenses - Assessors	5,693	7,035	2,721	5,000	5,000	5,200	5,400
2925	Clerk's Denominational Travel & Accommodation	2,237	3,000	1,308	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,500
2510	Legal Expenses	292,348	100,000	64,927	100,000	200,000	20,000	20,000
Total Assembly Related Expenses		375,558	186,962	136,466	223,905	288,600	108,860	149,749

**General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
6. Safe Church Expenses								
2811	Salaries & Wages					42,000	43,050	44,126
2701	Printing, Postage & Stationery					6,500	6,663	6,829
2221	Training					1,000	1,025	1,051
2923	Travel					2,500	2,563	2,627
2911	Phone/Internet					1,700	1,743	1,786
2751	Office Rent					6,000	6,150	6,304
2542	Energy Costs					500	513	525
2141	Professional Services	3,157		350		4,000	4,100	4,203
2851	Professional Ass'n, Journals					500	513	525
2281	Contingency					2,000	2,050	2,101
Total Safe Church Expenses		3,157	0	350	0	66,700	68,368	70,077
Total Archive Related Expenses		50,898	53,627	35,584	53,612	53,154	54,101	55,144
Total Expenses		1,060,263	989,538	720,079	1,055,452	1,140,673	974,891	1,036,545
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(89,086)	(47,728)	(7,676)	(58,822)	(126,988)	41,131	(7,836)
Capital Items								
	Office Shelving / Bookcases	3,560					-	-
	Computer replacement		1,200		1,200	1,200	2,000	2,000
	Office Furn & Equip - Safe Church Office					3,000		
	Increase/(Decrease) in Current Assets			(24,498)				
	Increase/(Decrease) in Fixed Assets			2,208				
	(Increase)/Decrease in Current Liabilities			(27,978)				
	(Increase)/Decrease in Non-Current Liabilities			(8,742)				
	New Photocopier - Canon					14,000		
	Aitken Transfer				(28,129)			
Total Capital Exenditure			1,200	(59,010)	(26,929)	18,200	2,000	2,000
General Funds		3,845,772	3,807,324	3,898,148	3,820,787	3,688,199	3,740,165	3,743,453
Perpetual Funds		2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996	2,286,996

General Assembly
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
ARCHIVES								
Income								
1652	Archival Fees ex Private Researchers	823	1,000	450	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total Archival Income		823	1,000	450	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Expenses								
2122	Cleaning & Preservation Costs	545		60	60	50	50	50
2132	Computer & Software Costs	60	250	43	250	250	250	250
2222	Education & Training	-	200	-	200	150	150	150
2282	General Expenses	289	300	279	300	350	350	350
2552	Long Service Leave	747	1,000	568	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2702	Postage, Printing & Stationery	481	200	459	200	500	500	500
2703	Archival Boxes & Wallets	-	500	-	500	350	350	350
2704	Retrieval	1,770	2,100	1,561	2,100	2,300	2,300	2,300
2752	Rent	5,000	5,000	3,333	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2812	Salaries	29,867	29,772	20,599	29,772	30,516	31,279	32,218
2835	Storage	8,096	7,000	5,571	7,000	8,400	8,400	8,400
2706	Digitisation of Blue Books	210	3,000	-	3,000	-	-	-
2852	Subscriptions & Reference Books	97	100	75	100	100	100	100
2872	Superannuation	2,987	2,977	2,060	2,977	3,052	3,128	3,222
2912	Telephone & Internet	386	850	724	850	750	850	850
2922	Travelling Expenses	147	50	-	50	50	50	50
2952	WorkCover Levy	215	327	253	253	336	344	354
Total Archive Related Expenses		50,898	53,627	35,584	53,612	53,154	54,101	55,144
Surplus/(Deficit) on Archival Operations		(50,075)	(52,627)	(35,134)	(52,612)	(52,154)	(53,101)	(54,144)

**General Assembly
Beneficiary Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Balfour Memorial Trust								
Income								
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	127,825	130,300	86,513	130,800	133,000	138,200	145,300
1600	Rentals Received Ministers Holiday Homes	10,370	9,000	9,179	9,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
	Total Income	138,195	139,300	95,692	139,800	143,000	148,200	155,300
Payments								
2790	Rent Paid Ministers' Holiday Home	99,931	82,500	57,514	82,500	87,500	87,500	87,500
2810	Wages - Ministers Holiday Homes	1,312	1,584	1,453	1,584	1,623	1,664	1,714
2870	Ministers' Superannuation Contribution	16,085	27,000	8,283	27,000	10,000	0	0
2920	Travel Expenses	93	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Expenditure	117,422	111,084	67,250	111,084	99,123	89,164	89,214
	Surplus	20,774	28,216	28,442	28,716	43,877	59,036	66,086
	Balance of Funds	1,079,329	1,107,545	1,107,771	1,108,045	1,151,922	1,210,958	1,277,045
Donaldson Trust								
Income						6.0%	6.0%	6.0%
1352	Interest Common Fund Specific	370	600	134	400	600	600	600
1440	Other Income	89,487	104,700	56,269	104,700	127,600	135,600	144,300
1995	Unrealised Gains revaluation	199,663	0	125,041	125,041	0	0	0
	Total Income	289,521	105,300	181,444	230,141	128,200	136,200	144,900
Payments								
2291	Grants Paid	9,898	25,000	1,650	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
	Surplus	279,622	80,300	179,794	205,141	103,200	111,200	119,900
	Balance of Specific Funds in Comm Fund	2,540	5,000	6,164	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
	Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested)	214,252	214,252	214,252	214,252	214,252	214,252	214,252
	Specific Balance (Separately Invested)	1,216,260	1,296,560	1,397,570	1,421,401	1,524,601	1,635,801	1,755,701
Forster Trust								
Receipts								
1353	Interest Common Fund Specific	3,670	3,700	2,482	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
Payments								
2292	Grants Paid	3,900	3,700	3,750	3,700	3,700	3,700	3,700
	Surplus	(230)	0	(1,268)	0	0	0	0
	Balance of Specific Funds	1,906	1,906	638	1,906	1,906	1,906	1,906
	Perpetual Funds	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000	29,000

**General Assembly
Beneficiary Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Pensioners Reserve								
Receipts								
1354	Interest Common Fund Specific	18,735	20,000	13,607	20,700	22,100	24,500	27,100
Payments								
2814	Pensions - Ministers & Widows	2,700	2,700	1,800	2,700	2,700	2,700	2,700
	Surplus	16,035	17,300	11,807	18,000	19,400	21,800	24,400
	Balance of Specific Funds	166,517	183,817	178,324	184,517	203,917	225,717	250,117
Housing and Loan Fund								
Receipts								
1355	Interest Common Fund Specific	390,604	392,000	267,331	409,000	381,000	377,000	372,000
	Total Income	390,604	392,000	267,331	409,000	381,000	377,000	372,000
Payments								
2510	Legal Expenses	3,765	2,000	1,203	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2751&2752	Property Expenses	2,500	12,000	8,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
	Total Expenditure	6,265	14,000	9,203	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
	Surplus	384,340	378,000	258,128	395,000	367,000	363,000	358,000
Capital Items / Balance Sheet Payments								
	Loans Advanced/Repaid	0	400,000	(100,000)	400,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
	Balance Invested in Common Fund	3,176,051	3,154,051	3,534,179	3,171,051	3,138,051	3,101,051	3,059,051
J & E Walters (P Owen Trustee)								
Receipts								
1356	Interest Common Fund Specific	19,085	19,000	11,101	17,000	16,400	16,400	16,400
Payments								
2293	Grants Paid	45,780	25,000	0	17,000	16,400	16,400	16,400
	Surplus	(26,695)	(6,000)	11,101	0	0	0	0
	Balance of Specific Funds	12,649	6,649	23,750	12,649	12,649	12,649	12,649
	Perpetual Funds	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658	123,658
Surplus/(Deficit) Beneficiary Trusts								
TOTAL	Balance of Specific Funds	4,438,992	4,458,968	4,850,826	4,483,168	4,513,445	4,557,281	4,605,768
TOTAL	Perpetual Funds	366,910	366,910	366,910	366,910	366,910	366,910	366,910

General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Deakin (Moderators) Trust								
Receipts								
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	23,718	24,400	15,953	24,100	24,000	24,000	24,000
Payments								
2590	Moderators Expenses	27,602	23,900	12,783	23,900	23,900	24,000	24,000
	Surplus	(3,884)	500	3,170	200	100	0	0
	Balance of Specific Funds	199,397	199,897	202,567	199,597	199,697	199,697	199,697
Fraser Trust								
Receipts								
1353	Interest Common Fund Specific	96,893	96,500	65,306	99,200	98,600	101,200	103,700
Payments								
2791	Rent Paid Missionaries on Home Assignment	9,795	45,000	3,501	45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000
2400	Interest transfer to General	53,392	31,500	20,618	37,822	32,600	35,200	36,700
2870	Superannuation Missionaries	16,000	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total Expenditure	79,186	76,500	24,119	82,822	77,600	80,200	81,700
	Surplus (Indexation of Capital)	17,706	20,000	41,188	16,378	21,000	21,000	22,000
	Balance of Funds	805,622	825,622	846,810	822,000	843,000	864,000	886,000
Insurance								
Receipts								
1354	Interest Common Fund Specific	22,802	21,900	15,303	23,400	22,900	22,800	22,600
Payments								
2385	Insurance Claims & Risk Management	23,630	24,000	5,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
	Surplus	(828)	(2,100)	10,303	(600)	(1,100)	(1,200)	(1,400)
	Balance of Funds	191,398	189,298	201,701	190,798	189,698	188,498	187,098

General Assembly
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Capital Fund Reserve								
Receipts								
1340	Interest on Loans to Congregations @ 3%	81,884	97,500	52,396	86,634	112,500	120,000	120,000
1355	Interest Common Fund Specific	177,683	189,000	119,736	182,000	190,000	197,000	204,000
1440	Other Investment Income	3,091	6,000	1,180	2,361	2,255	2,255	2,255
Total Income		262,657	292,500	173,312	270,995	304,755	319,255	326,255
Payments								
2140	Consultancy - Capital Fund			250	0	0	0	0
2295	Grant to Property Development Fund	83,924						
2401	Interest on Loans from TC @ 6.5%	176,953	211,250	113,920	183,121	243,750	260,000	260,000
2402	Interest paid to Depositors	1,780	1,780	816	1,636	1,640	1,640	1,640
Total Expenditure		262,657	213,030	114,986	184,757	245,390	261,640	261,640
Surplus		0	79,470	58,327	86,238	59,365	57,615	64,615
Balance of Funds		1,497,308	1,576,778	1,556,358	1,583,546	1,642,911	1,700,526	1,765,141
Deposits from Congregations, PWMU etc		88,423	89,000	82,026	82,000	82,000	82,000	82,000
Loans		2,585,420	3,500,000	2,887,801	3,500,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,000,000
Break Even Loan Balance			7,555,975			7,601,021	7,885,973	8,162,525
Other Specific Trusts - GAA, Overseas Visitors								
Receipts								
1163	Pres-Aid Donations - Easter	27,949	0	2,970	0	0	0	0
1164	Pres-Aid Donations - Christmas	47,529	0	52,183	52,183	0	0	0
1350	Interest - Pres-Aid	1,191		172				
1350	Interest - Overseas Visitors	14,650	13,600	10,668	16,002	16,500	17,300	18,100
1350	Interest - GAA	33,991	32,500	24,896	37,344	36,600	36,600	36,600
Total Income		125,310	46,100	90,889	105,529	53,100	53,900	54,700
Payments								
2291	Grants Paid - Overseas Visitors Fund	0	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
2290	Grants Paid - GAA	0	32,500	10,000	37,344	36,600	36,600	36,600
2294	Grants - Pres-Aid	74,979	0	0	52,183	0	0	0
Total Expenditure		74,979	42,500	10,000	99,527	46,600	46,600	46,600
Surplus / (Deficit)		50,331	3,600	80,889	6,002	6,500	7,300	8,100
Balance of Funds - O/S Visitors		131,377	134,977	142,045	137,379	143,879	151,179	159,279
Balance of Funds - GAA		304,815	304,815	319,711	304,815	304,815	304,815	304,815
Balance of Funds - Pres-AID Funds		1,690	0	57,015	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		63,326	101,470	193,877	108,218	85,865	84,715	93,315
TOTAL	Balance of Specific Funds	3,131,607	3,231,387	3,326,207	3,238,135	3,324,000	3,408,715	3,502,030

Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12.0% 12.0% 12.0% 12.0%

						Budget for Approval		
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1089.19	General Mission Programme	42,273	47,000	37,681	47,000	40,000	35,000	30,000
1162.19	Mission Lunch Income	1,505	1,500	1,464	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
1169.19	Donations & Bequests	24,990	0	0	0	0	0	0
1359.19	Interest Common Fund	60,926	59,400	40,842	62,100	61,700	61,800	62,100
1440.19	Other Investment Income	235	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income		129,929	107,900	79,987	110,600	103,200	98,300	93,600
Expenditure								
Grants								
2290.19	Grants - Aboriginal	18,111	20,000	10,000	20,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
2296.19	Grants - Mission Expenses	0	7,000	0	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2297.19	Grants - General - detail below	34,993	36,200	16,833	32,200	37,000	33,000	29,000
2298.19	Grants - Christmas Gifts	7,200	7,500	7,450	7,500	7,500	7,500	7,500
2870.19	Superannuation - Missionaries	14,283	14,500	4,918	14,500	15,000	15,000	15,000
2928.19	PWMU Bursary Travel	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	0	0
Total Grant Payments		74,587	86,200	39,200	82,200	81,500	77,500	73,500
Committee								
2130.19	Computer & Website Expenses	1,770	500	0	500	500	500	500
2183.19	Depreciation Motor Vehicles	6,145	6,800	4,465	6,800	6,800	4,800	3,800
2280.19	Mission Lunch Expenses	1,630	2,000	2,050	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2289.19	General Expenses-Committee	155	500	116	500	500	500	500
2600.19	Motor Vehicle Expenses	7,975	12,000	10,745	12,000	13,000	13,000	13,000
2705.19	Promotion - New Poster	1,609	0	0	0	2,000	0	2,000
2709.19	Postage & Stationery	65	250	28	250	250	250	250
2859.19	Subscriptions	150	150	0	150	150	150	150
2929.19	Travelling Expenses	1,271	2,000	984	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2950.19	WorkCover Levy	309	350	328	350	350	350	350
Total Committee Expenses		21,079	24,550	18,716	24,550	27,550	23,550	24,550
Total Expenses		95,665	110,750	57,916	106,750	109,050	101,050	98,050
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		34,263	(2,850)	22,071	3,850	(5,850)	(2,750)	(4,450)

Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						Budget for Approval		
						12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Capital Expenditure	Car	24,990			0			
General Funds (exc balance of Appeal Funds)		196,040	199,990	222,576	206,690	207,640	209,690	209,040
Perpetual Funds		307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671	307,671

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12.0% 12.0% 12.0% 12.0%

Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	Budget for Approval 2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Aboriginal Trusts								
Income								
1351	Interest Common Fund	219	0	0	0	0	0	0
Expenditure								
2291	Grants	6,889	0	0	0	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit)		(6,670)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Specific Funds		0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vanuatu Trusts								
Income								
1352	Interest Common Fund	21,210	21,200	13,899	20,900	19,900	19,100	18,700
Expenditure								
2292	Grants	18,600	37,200	13,950	27,900	23,250	18,600	18,600
2295	Blackwell Scholarship Grant	3,400	3,400	1,700	3,400	3,400	3,400	3,400
Total Expenditure		22,000	40,600	15,650	31,300	26,650	22,000	22,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		(790)	(19,400)	(1,751)	(10,400)	(6,750)	(2,900)	(3,300)
Specific Funds		134,795	115,395	133,044	124,395	117,645	114,745	111,445
Perpetual Funds		41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451	41,451
Beatty Trust								
Income								
1353	Interest Common Fund	15,895	15,900	10,513	15,800	15,400	14,800	14,200
Total Income		15,895	15,900	10,513	15,800	15,400	14,800	14,200
Expenditure								
2293	Grants - APWM National Office	16,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total Expenditure		16,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		(105)	(4,100)	513	(4,200)	(4,600)	(5,200)	(5,800)
Specific Funds		132,391	128,291	132,904	128,191	123,591	118,391	112,591
Sudan Appeal								
Income								
1357	Interest Common Fund	1,645	416	544	416	0	0	0
Expenditure								
2326	Grants	10,000	8,822	4,500	8,822	0	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit)		(8,355)	(8,406)	(3,956)	(8,406)	0	0	0
Specific Funds		8,406	0	4,450	0	0	0	0

**Australian Presbyterian World Mission Vic
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Dehra Dun								
Income								
1356	Interest Common Fund	4,260	3,400	2,831	4,300	4,100	4,000	3,900
Expenditure								
2294	Grants	3,500	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	3,900
Surplus/(Deficit)		760	(1,600)	2,831	(700)	(900)	(1,000)	0
Specific Funds		9,985	8,385	12,816	9,285	8,385	7,385	7,385
Perpetual Funds		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		34,263	(2,850)	22,071	3,850	(5,850)	(2,750)	(4,450)
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		(15,160)	(33,506)	(2,364)	(23,706)	(12,250)	(9,100)	(9,100)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		19,103	(36,356)	19,708	(19,856)	(18,100)	(11,850)	(13,550)
TOTAL	Specific Funds	285,577	245,806	283,213	261,871	249,621	240,521	231,421
TOTAL	Perpetual Funds	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451	66,451

Christian Education & Nurture
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund General	84,813	87,600	58,279	88,100	89,600	90,500	91,500
1600	Rentals Received	1,248	4,992	0	0	0	0	0
1032	18/30 Camp Income	7,316	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
1660	Conferences and Seminars		2,200	509	509	2,200	2,200	2,200
1990	Profit on sale of portable classroom					4,992		
Total Income		93,378	99,792	58,788	93,609	101,792	97,700	98,700
Expenditure								
Seminars								
2580	Conferences and Seminars	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000	5,000
2581	Reforming Arts	0	4,500	0	0	0	0	0
2582	Women's Ministry	0	2,000	894	2,000	2,500	2,000	2,000
2584	18/30 Camp Expenditure	5,735	5,000	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
2583	Fuelled	0	5,000	551	551	0		
2810	Fuelled - Casual Wages	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
2950	Workcover Levy		0	39	0	0	0	0
Total Seminar Expenses		5,735	21,500	1,483	7,551	12,500	12,000	12,000
Committee								
2133	Website	670	600	205	600	600	600	600
2180	Depreciation	1,588	1,589	53	90	90	90	90
2280	General Expenses	460	600	0	600	600	600	600
2392	Insurances Professional Indemnity	370	381	400	381	393	404	416
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	149	0	27	27	250	250	250
2751	Office Rental - CEC	125						
2920	Travelling Expenses	2,816	3,500	853	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
Total Committee Expenses		6,178	6,670	1,538	4,698	4,933	4,944	4,956
Grants to PYV								
2295	PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	43548	47,300	31,536	47,300	49,000	49,980	51,479
	Funding for 20th anniversary celebration					5,000		
2292	PYV Camp Fees	8,446	8,000	5,773	8,000	9,000	9,500	10,000
2292	PYV Camp Leader Subsidies		10,000	3,125	10,000	12,000	13,000	14,000
Total Grants to PYV		51,994	65,300	40,434	65,300	75,000	72,480	75,479
Total Expenses		63,907	93,470	43,455	77,549	92,433	89,424	92,436
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		29,471	6,322	15,333	16,060	9,359	8,276	6,264
General Funds		462,627	468,538	478,013	478,777	486,226	494,592	500,946
Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250
Capital Items								
	Office Equipment inc laptop		2,000		0	2,000	0	0
	Enter Details Here				0	0	0	0
Total Capital Exenditure			2,000		0	2,000	0	0

**Christian Education & Nurture
Specific Trusts - Allan Trust
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1060	Sales - See For Yourself	2,224	3,000	563	1,500	500	500	500
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	65,206	67,700	45,186	68,400	71,100	72,300	75,800
Total Income		67,430	70,700	45,750	69,900	71,600	72,800	76,300
Expenditure								
2030	Advertising & promotion	71	0	0	0	0	0	0
2782	Catechism design	0	5,000	0	0	5,000	0	0
2071	Bursaries & Prizes	1,845	2,800	2,562	2,800	2,800	2,800	2,800
2293	Contribution to Youth Worker	38,004	39,000	26,000	39,000	39,000	40,170	41,375
2781	Production - ebook version of SFY	0	15,000	0	0	15,000	0	0
2350	Honorarium - for Primary version of SFY	0	5,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses		39,920	66,800	28,562	41,800	61,800	42,970	44,175
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		27,511	3,900	17,188	28,100	9,800	29,830	32,125
Specific Funds		536,341	540,241	553,529	564,441	574,241	604,071	636,196
Perpetual Funds		27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852	27,852

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Social (June 2015)								
1039	Income	1,089	2,000	0		2,000	2,040	2,101
2729	Expenses	2,205	1,500	0		4,000	4,080	4,202
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Social	(1,116)	500	0	0	(2,000)	(2,040)	(2,101)
Ministers Family Camp (~Sep 2014)								
1029	Income	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,530	1,576
2731	Expenses	452	500	563	563	500	510	525
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Ministers Family Camp	1,048	1,000	937	937	1,000	1,020	1,051
Training Days - Rain24								
1023	Income	373		0	0	0	0	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Training Days	373	0	0	0	0	0	0
Summer Camp (Dec 2014 - Jan 2015)								
1025	Income	46,761	47,000	41,447	47,247	50,000	51,000	52,530
2725	Expenses	49,255	47,000	34,794	49,250	50,000	51,000	52,530
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Summer Camp	(2,494)	0	6,653	(2,003)	0	0	0
Youth Leaders' Conference (~Jan 2015)								
1031	Income	14,544	17,000	15,213	15,213	20,000	21,420	22,063
2734	Expenses	19,918	20,000	19,765	19,620	21,000	21,420	22,063
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Youth Leaders' Conference	(5,374)	(3,000)	(4,551)	(4,407)	(1,000)	0	0
West State Camp (~Apr 2015)								
1033	Income	10,822	9,500	45	15,750	17,500	17,850	18,386
2736	Expenses	13,839	9,500	42	15,750	17,500	17,850	18,386
	Surplus/(Deficit) on West State Camp	(3,018)	0	3	0	0	0	0
East State Camp (~June 2015)								
1034	Income	6,683	8,000	7,075	15,075	8,500	8,670	8,930
2737	Expenses	7,839	8,000	6,953	14,953	8,500	8,670	8,930
	Surplus/(Deficit) on East State Camp	(1,156)	0	122	122	0	0	0
Volleyball (~Oct 2014)								
1020	Income	2,811	2,500	0		2,500	2,575	2,652
2720	Expenses	2,511	2,000	0		2,500	2,575	2,652
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Volleyball	300	500	0	0	0	0	0
North State Camp (~Sep 2014)								
1042	Income	9,185	12,000	8,498	8,498	10,000	6,365	6,556
2740	Expenses	7,780	12,000	8,126	8,126	10,000	6,365	6,556
	Surplus/(Deficit) on North State Camp	1,406	0	373	373	0	0	0

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Bookstall & Tuckshop								
1021	Income	1,099	0	187	0	0	0	0
2724	Expenditure	282	0	504	0	0	0	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Bookstall & Tuckshop	817	0	(317)	0	0	0	0
Merchandising								
1022	Income	970	750	487	750	1,000	800	800
2722	Expenses	643	1,000	731	1,000	3,000	1,500	1,500
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Merchandising	327	(250)	(244)	(250)	(2,000)	(700)	(700)
Internship								
1062	Income	102	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Internship	102	0	0	0	0	0	0
Net Surplus/(Deficit) on all Events		(8,786)	(1,250)	2,976	(5,228)	(4,000)	(1,720)	(1,751)

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12.0%						Budget for Approval	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1169	Donations Miscellaneous	1,090	0	5,269	5,269	1,500	1,500	1,500
	CENC Funding re 20th Anniversary					5,000		
1170	Donations to Subsidise Campers	881	1,500	0	0	0	0	0
1060	Equipment Hire	1,236	1,000	982	1,000	1,000	1,030	1,061
1241	CENC Funding - Youth Worker	43,548	47,300	31,536	47,300	49,000	50,470	51,984
1248	Allan Trust Funding - Youth Worker	38,004	39,000	26,000	39,000	39,000	40,170	41,375
1359	Interest Common Fund	48,862	48,700	32,233	48,800	48,700	49,000	48,500
Total Income (excl Camps & Events)		133,621	137,500	96,020	141,369	144,200	142,170	144,420
General Expenses								
2150	Council expenses	457	500	301	500	500	515	530
2060	Bank Charges & Debits Tax	117	108	83	108	108	111	115
2130	Computer / Website / Software	2,450	2,000	1,779	2,000	2,770	2,853	2,939
2180	Depreciation - Furniture/Equip	1,625	1,500	1,222	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000
2220	Leader Training	753	2,500	2,118	2,500	2,500	2,575	2,652
2275	First Aid	234	750	398	750	750	773	796
2278	General Printing & Publicity	3,241	3,200	686	3,200	3,200	3,296	3,395
2279	Music Expenses	553	1,000	579	1,000	1,000	1,030	1,061
2280	General Expenses	214	0	100	0	1,000	1,030	1,061
2392	Insurances	2,310	2,420	2,460	2,460	2,500	2,625	2,756
2600	Motor Vehicle Expenses - Van	285	0	81	81	0	0	0
2281	PYV Mission Trip		1,000	0	0	1,000	1,030	1,061
2721	AGM Expenditure (-Dec)		100	117	117	100	103	106
2738	Camper Subsidy (linked to 1170)		1,500	0	0	0	0	0
2769	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	1,362	1,500	352	1,500	1,500	1,545	1,591
Total General Expenses		13,599	18,078	10,277	15,716	18,428	18,486	19,063

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Office								
2910	Telephone	360	500	246	500	500	515	530
2911	Internet access/usage	708	800	462	800	800	824	849
2752	Rent	3,050	5,200	3,467	5,200	5,200	5,356	5,517
2705	Office / Stationery	1,650	1,000	920	1,000	1,000	1,030	1,061
Total Office Expenses		5,768	7,500	5,095	7,500	7,500	7,725	7,957
Staff Related Expenses								
2812	Administrative Support	21,530	25,700	16,251	25,700	26,343	27,133	27,947
2872	Superannuation PYV Admin Off	1,938	2,300	1,625	2,570	2,634	2,713	2,795
2811	Stipend Youth Worker	31,560	32,500	21,456	32,500	33,313	34,312	35,341
2640	NCB Youth Worker	16,992	17,500	11,328	17,500	17,938	18,476	19,030
2790	Rent assistance	19,764	19,760	13,176	19,760	19,760	19,760	19,760
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	350	300	0	300	350	361	371
2870	Superannuation - PYV (Youth Worker)	7,283	7,500	4,918	7,500	7,688	7,918	8,156
2220	Training Expenses - Youth Worker		1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2282	Hospitality/books - Youth Worker		1,300	896	1,300	1,300	1,300	1,300
2955	Disability Insurance	1,028	1,200	1,037	1,037	1,200	1,200	1,200
2950	Workcover	608	800	678	678	800	824	849
2920	Travel	2,797	4,440	676	4,440	4,440	4,573	4,710
Total Staff Related Expenses		103,850	114,300	72,039	114,285	116,764	119,569	122,459
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		1,617	(3,628)	11,585	(1,359)	(2,492)	(5,330)	(6,809)
	Deposits in Common Fund	146,245	139,117	145,156	141,386	140,393	136,063	130,254
	Paypal	0	0	6,740	0	0	0	0
Total General Funds		146,245	139,117	151,896	141,386	140,393	136,063	130,254
Perpetual Funds		268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250	268,250

Presbyterian Youth in Victoria
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected

Summary								
Camp Fees & Events		95,939	100,250	74,266	104,033	113,000	112,250	115,594
Income		133,621	137,500	96,020	141,369	144,200	142,170	144,420
Total Income		229,561	237,750	170,285	245,402	257,200	254,420	260,014
Camp & Event Costs		104,725	101,500	70,973	109,261	117,000	113,970	117,345
Other Costs		123,218	139,878	87,411	137,500	142,692	145,780	149,478
Total Expenses		227,943	241,378	158,384	246,762	259,692	259,751	266,823
Net Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		1,617	(3,628)	11,902	(1,359)	(2,492)	(5,330)	(6,809)

Capital Items								
Camp Deposits			0	6,622	0	0	0	
Sound Equipment			2,000		2,000	0	0	
Apple Macbook Computer			2,000		2,000	0	0	
Printer/Phone			0	534	534			
Office furniture			1,000		466	0	0	
Total Capital Expenditure			5,000	7,156	5,000	0	0	0

Church & Nation Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1020	Colloquium Sponsorship	0	0	1,500	1,500	0	1,500	0
1030	Colloquium Registration Fees	505	12,500	8,826	8,826	0	15,000	0
1060	Colloquium Product Sales	0	0	333	333	0	1,000	0
1240	Overseas Speaker Travel Grant	0	2,000	0	0	0	6,000	0
		505	14,500	10,659	10,659	0	23,500	0
1068	Sales Booklets	0	300	3	300	300	300	300
1359	Interest Common Fund	41,862	42,200	28,847	43,800	44,500	44,300	45,000
Total Income		42,367	57,000	39,509	54,759	44,800	68,100	45,300
General Expenditure								
2130	Computer & Software Costs	617	1,150	275	1,150	1,150	1,150	1,150
2180	Depreciation	246	250	164	250	250	250	250
2289	General Expenses	390	1,200	91	1,200	1,400	1,400	1,400
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	370	370	400	400	420	441	463
2580	Conferences	656	800	0	800	850	850	850
2709	Postage Printing & Stationery	220	450	36	450	500	500	500
2748	Publications Cost	0	600	0	600	650	650	650
2752	Office Rental					1,600	1,600	1,600
2810	Research assistant wages	19,117	22,100	13,732	22,100	22,800	23,500	24,200
2870	Research assistant superannuation	1,912	2,210	1,340	2,210	2,280	2,350	2,420
2850	Journal Subscriptions (& Books)	199	600	119	600	650	650	650
2851	Books	30	1,200	26	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2910	Telephone & Fax	0	750	0	750	800	800	800
2911	Research asst - internet, phone, office supplies	382	1,500	0	1,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
2920	Travelling Expenses	506	2,500	384	2,500	2,750	2,750	2,750
2950	Insurance W/Cover Premiums	172	200	188	188	200	200	200
Total General Expenditure		24,816	35,880	16,754	35,898	40,000	40,791	41,583

Church & Nation Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Colloquium								
2030	Colloquium Advertising & Brochures	0	1,000	0	0	0	1,000	1,000
2281	Colloquium Miscellaneous	0	1,500	869	869	0	1,000	1,000
2285	Colloquium Meals	0	4,500	2,617	2,617	0	4,000	4,000
2350	Colloquium Honoraria	0	7,500	3,284	3,284	0	7,000	7,000
2708	Colloquium Printing and Stationery	1,056	3,500	374	374	0	3,000	3,000
2921	Colloquium Travel	0	6,500	1,883	1,883	0	8,000	8,000
2922	Colloquium Accommodation	0	4,500	1,102	1,102	0	4,000	4,000
Total Colloquium Expenditure		1,056	29,000	10,130	10,130	0	28,000	28,000
Total Committee Expenditure		25,872	64,880	26,884	46,028	40,000	68,791	69,583
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		16,495	(7,880)	12,625	8,731	4,800	(691)	(24,283)
General Funds		361,478	353,848	374,267	370,459	369,509	375,068	351,035

Capital Items								
	Office furniture	459			0	0	0	0
	Laptop Computer	531			0	0	0	0
	Colloquium prepayments				0	6,000	(6,000)	0
	Enter Details Here				0	0	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure		990	0	0	0	6,000	(6,000)	0

Church Planting Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2014/15

**Budget
for
Approval**

Constructed								
Acct No.	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/15 Proposed	2015/16 Projected	2016/17 Projected
	Income							
1359	Interest Common Fund	85,457	84,500	54,132	84,500	69,000	68,983	34,837
1600	Rentals Received - Officer	26,076	26,800	17,386	26,800	26,600	27,100	28,000
1640	Scots Church Distribution	108,908	120,000	101,934	101,934	125,000	250,000	250,000
	Total Income	220,441	231,300	173,452	213,234	220,600	346,083	312,837
	Expenditure							
	Committee operations							
2220	Training of committee members		2,000	1,424	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2221	Committee sponsored training of others		2,000	712	2,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2130	Website expenses	2,300	1,500	665	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000
2860	National conference subsidy	782	3,000	1,807	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
2285	Geneva Push	7,500	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	17,500	20,000
2920	Travel reimbursements	414	2,500	97	2,500	3,000	2,500	2,500
	Total Committee Operations	10,995	26,000	19,705	26,000	27,000	29,000	31,500
	Church Planter Evangelist							
2810	Church planter evangelist - Stipend	31,560	32,184	21,456	32,184	32,828	33,484	34,489
2640	Non-Cash Benefit	20,076	16,992	13,345	16,992	17,332	17,678	18,209
2870	Superannuation	7,283	7,376	4,918	7,376	7,524	8,550	9,200
2752	Rental/Manse Allowance	23,400	25,000	15,600	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400
2541	Manse Energy Expenses	3,839	3,000	1,908	3,000	3,300	3,600	3,900
2550	LSL Levy	350	350	350	350	350	350	350
2955	Disability Insurance/Workcover	1,989	2,000	1,551	2,000	2,050	2,100	2,200
2910	Telephone/Fax	1,078	1,300	727	1,300	1,350	1,400	1,450
	Plant Reimbursement		(29,500)					
	Total Church Planter Evangelist	89,575	58,702	59,855	86,602	88,133	90,563	93,198

Church Planting Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2014/15

**Budget
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Constructed								
Acct No.	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/15 Proposed	2015/16 Projected	2016/17 Projected
	Church plant #1 (VPC- 2011)							
2291	Team members (not theologically trained)	2,750	7,000					
2290	Operating grants	565						
2180	Depreciation Furniture/Equipment	556	180	369	180			
2293	Startup grants							
	Total Church Plant #1 VPC	3,871	7,180	369	180			
	Church Plant #2 - Point Cook							
2812	Church Planter Stipend CP2	29,088	58,898	39,266	58,898			
2753	Rental/Manse Allowance - CP2	14,296	25,000	15,283	25,000			
2294	Operating grants					61,372	46,918	27,768
2296	Startup grants							
	Total Church Plant #2 - Point Cook	43,384	83,898	54,549	83,898	61,372	46,918	27,768
	Church Plant #3 - Darebin							
2815	Church Planter Stipend CP3	24,328	32,184	19,781	32,184			
2642	Non Cash Benefits - CP3		16,992	10,674	16,992			
2872	Superannuation Church Plant 3		7,376	4,664	7,376			
2754	Rental/Manse Allowance - CP3	21,233	36,400	24,267	36,400			
2543	Manse Energy Expenses CP3	276	3,100	1,153	3,100			
2552	LSL Levy CP3		350	350	350			
2912	Telephone/Fax CP3	280	1,750	1,626	1,750			
2957	Disab Ins/Wcover CP3		2,000	1,354	2,000			
		46,117	100,152	63,869	100,152			
2298	Team members (not theologically trained)		7,000					
2297	Operating grants	11,060	10,000	2,450	10,000	85,580	53,900	31,900
2299	Startup grants	19,387	9,500		9,500			
	Total Church Plant #3 - Darebin	76,564	126,652	66,319	119,652	85,580	53,900	31,900

Church Planting Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2014/15

**Budget
for
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Constructed								
Acct No.	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/15 Proposed	2015/16 Projected	2016/17 Projected
	Church Plant 4 - SE Bendigo							
2813	Remuneration CP4	27,917	32,184	21,456	32,184			
2643	Non Cash Benefits - CP4		16,992	11,328	16,992			
2874	Superannuation Church Plant 4		7,376	4,918	7,376			
2755	Rental/Manse Allowance - CP4	7,500	32,184	10,000	15,000			
2544	Manse Energy Expenses CP4	229	3,100	1,228	3,100			
2553	LSL Levy CP4		350	350	350			
2913	Telephone/Fax CP4		1,750	199	1,750			
2958	Disab Ins/Wcover CP4		2,000	1,478	2,000			
		35,646	95,936	50,956	78,752			
2300	Operating grants	13,000	2,420		2,420	68,170	45,803	27,108
2301	Team members (not theologically trained)		7,000					
2302	Startup grants	445	23,155	21,556	23,155			
	Total Church Plant 4 - SE Bendigo	49,091	128,511	72,512	104,327	68,170	45,803	27,108
	Church Plant 5 - Warragul							
	Operating grants		40,000	12,563	35,750	57,850	44,850	31,850
	Startup grants		15,000	15,000	15,000			
	Total Church Plant - Warragul		55,000	27,563	50,750	57,850	44,850	31,850
	Church Plant 6 - Unknown							
	Operating grants					80,000	80,000	60,000
	Startup grants					20,000		
	Total Church Plant 6 - Unknown					100,000	80,000	60,000
	Property Expenses - Officer							
2390	Insurance - Fire & General	583	600	524	524	550	578	607
2711	Property Expenses	1,837	2,250	1,554	2,250	2,500	2,500	2,700
2750	Rates & Taxes	21,512	13,500	4,186	13,500	14,000	15,000	16,000
	Total Property Expenses - Officer	23,932	16,350	6,264	16,274	17,050	18,078	19,307
	TOTAL Expenses	297,412	502,293	307,136	487,683	505,155	409,111	322,629
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	(76,971)	(270,993)	(133,684)	(274,449)	(284,555)	(63,027)	(9,793)
	Balance on General Funds	849,310	578,317	715,626	574,861	290,306	227,279	217,486

Church Planting Committee
Specific - Property Development Fund
Income & Expenditure Budget - 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/15 Proposed	2015/16 Projected	2016/17 Projected
	Income							
1080	General Mission Program	17,269	25,400	15,073	25,400	0	0	0
1162	Donations Property Development	13,931	14,500	9,679	14,500	14,500	14,500	14,500
1240	Grant from Capital Fund	83,924						
1350	Interest Property Development Fund	136,514	158,900	108,945	158,900	150,339	47,720	22,787
	Total Income	251,638	198,800	133,697	198,800	164,839	62,220	37,287
	Expenditure							
2140	Consultancy	0	20,000	4,470	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2292	Grants Property Development	0	250,000	0	250,000	1,000,000	250,000	250,000
	Total Expenditure	0	270,000	4,470	270,000	1,020,000	270,000	270,000
	Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	251,638	(71,200)	129,227	(71,200)	(855,161)	(207,780)	(232,713)
Property Development Fund						397,668	189,889	(42,825)

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/2015

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1040	Family Camp Income	28,257	30,000	24,899	24,899	30,000	30,000	30,000
1160	Donations and Gifts	0	1,000	629	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
1161	Good Friday Appeal	22,675	17,000	620	17,000	23,000	23,000	23,000
1247	Grant: Application to St Andrews Foundation	0	10,000	0	10,000	0	0	0
1249	Grant : HCCVI	27,691	15,450	21,927	43,854	22,000	23,000	24,000
1359	Interest Common Fund General	86,268	86,800	60,347	90,600	92,500	92,600	92,700
1410	Interest Minister's Home Loan	152	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Income		165,043	160,250	108,421	187,353	168,500	169,600	170,700
Expenditure								
2030	Advertising (inc Good Friday Appeal)	653	650	156	650	750	788	827
2110	Chaplaincy Fees - Hospitals	13,400	13,200	8,700	13,200	13,200	13,200	13,200
2111	Chaplaincy Fees - Prisons	3,000	1,200	800	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2112	Chaplaincy Fees - Police	1,200	1,200	800	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2113	Chaplaincy Fees - Sports	800	0	0	0	0	0	0
2114	Tertiary Chaplains (AFES Workers)	30,000	30,000	15,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
2116	Community Chaplaincy (Deaf)	19,694	16,888	11,259	16,888	20,000	20,600	21,218
2180	Depreciation Furniture/Equipment	613	615	413	615	615	615	615
2226	Pastors Renewal Retreats	3,328	3,500	(123)	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
2227	Chaplaincy Resources(Tracts,books,DVDs)	105	250	200	250	250	250	250
2228	Education & Training (Conferences/Seminars)	1,445	1,500	362	1,500	2,500	2,500	2,000
2229	Ministers & Family Support	0	0	435	0	0	0	0
2280	General Expenses	593	1,000	82	1,000	1,500	1,000	1,500
2282	Chaplains' Appreciation Luncheon	101	100	1,244	100	100	100	100
2283	Chaplains Commissioning Service			288		500	500	500
Chaplaincy Co-ordinator								
2815	Salary	25,000	26,470	17,083	26,470	27,132	27,946	28,784
2875	Superannuation	2,500	2,647	1,708	2,647	2,713	2,795	2,878
2954	Workcover Levy - General	426	320	436	436	515	515	515
2911	Phone (co-ordinator)	226	360	0	360	360	360	360
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	985	900	1,030	1,030	900	900	900
2752	Heathmont House office rental	2,600	3,900	3,467	3,900	3,640	3,900	4,160
2580	Ministers Family Camp (MFC) Expenses	44,528	46,000	39,917	39,917	46,500	47,000	47,000
2580	MFC Administration Wages	3,500	3,500	3,000	3,000	3,500	3,500	3,500
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery & Secretarial Fees	838	1,500	161	1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000
2800	Professional Supervision(Development)	418	500	0	500	500	500	500
2921	Travel - Corrections	1,500	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2922	Travelling Expenses - Committee	531	1,500	0	1,500	2,000	2,000	2,000
2118	Kirkbrae Chaplaincy- Junior Internship- total	3,135	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Committee Expenditure		161,117	159,700	106,419	153,363	166,575	167,868	169,707
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		3,926	550	2,002	33,990	1,925	1,732	993
48								
General Funds		975,344	976,509	977,759	1,009,949	1,012,489	1,014,836	1,016,444

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee

Specific Trusts

Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/2015

P Burnett Trust

						Budget for Approval		
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1351	Interest Common Fund Specific	74,802	75,000	49,161	73,800	73,600	71,700	69,300
Total Income		74,802	75,000	49,161	73,800	73,600	71,700	69,300
Expenditure								
Pastoral Support Worker								
2142	Professional Supervision	130	300	0	300	300	300	300
2812	Pastoral Support Worker (Ministers' Wives) (Salary)	35,135	34,440	24,935	36,017	36,918	38,025	39,166
2872	Super PSW	3,513	3,444	2,494	3,602	3,692	3,803	3,917
2912	Pastoral Support Worker - Phone	498	360	240	360	360	360	360
2923	Pastoral Support Worker - Travel	4,000	4,000	2,769	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2924	Pastoral Support Worker - Accomodation	358	350	0	350	350	350	350
2952	Workcover	300	461	392	461	491	504	518
Kirkbrae Chaplaincy								
2115	Stipend	16,128	16,253	10,953	16,430	16,841	17,346	17,867
2641	NCB	9,496	9,781	6,331	9,496	9,733	10,013	10,301
2791	Manse Allowance	8,281	8,529	5,631	8,446	8,657	8,917	9,185
2871	Superannuation	3,641	3,905	2,459	3,688	3,986	4,104	4,225
2144	Professional Supervision	295	500	150	500	500	500	500
2221	Professional Development (ES & WG)	222	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2551	Long Service Leave Levy	175	300	175	175	300	300	300
2956	Disability Insurance	1,077	1,110	1,037	1,037	1,068	1,100	1,133
2953	Workcover	395	385	234	234	392	404	416
2115	Kirkbrae Supply Fees	0	300	137	300	450	450	450
Total Kirkbrae Chaplaincy		39,710	42,063	27,106	41,306	42,928	44,133	45,376
Total Expenses		83,645	85,418	57,935	86,396	89,038	91,475	93,986
Surplus/(Deficit)		(8,843)	(10,418)	(8,775)	(12,596)	(15,438)	(19,775)	(24,686)
Specific Funds - Burnett		625,700	615,282	616,925	613,104	597,667	577,891	553,205

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/2015

Harold Hughes Trust

						Budget for Approval		
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1350	Interest Common Fund Specific	1,482	1,200	500	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
1440	Other Investment Income	58,222	93,900	35,681	93,900	110,100	109,700	109,100
2570	Management Fee - Separate Investments	0	(18,100)	0	(18,100)	(21,200)	(21,100)	(21,000)
1995	Gain / (Loss) on Investments	224,933	0	114,227	114,227	0	0	0
Total Income		284,637	77,000	150,408	191,227	90,100	89,800	89,300
Expenditure								
2876	Intern Expenses	0	7,477	2,338	7,477	26,140	26,924	27,732
2874	Superannuation - Intern			134		2,614	2,692	2,773
	Workcover: Senior Intern	0	0	0	0	316	269	277
	Other oncosts					2,600	2,678	2,758
2810	Western Health Chaplain Salary	8,219	28,100	18,641	27,962	28,661	29,520	30,406
2870	Superannuation	839	2,810	1,863	2,796	2,866	2,952	3,041
2950	Other oncosts	0	1,840	433	433	1,850	1,906	1,963
2811	North Health Chaplain Salary	5,246	18,750	12,906	19,359	19,843	20,438	21,051
2873	Superannuation	472	1,875	1,291	1,936	1,984	2,044	2,105
2955	Other oncosts	0	1,726	289	289	1,734	1,786	1,840
	Paediatric Scholarships					6,000	6,180	6,365
2810	RCH Chaplain	56,914	41,950	0	0		0	0
Total Expenses		71,690	104,528	37,894	60,252	94,608	97,390	100,312
Surplus/(Deficit)		212,946	(27,528)	112,514	130,975	(4,508)	(7,590)	(11,012)
Common Fund - Hughes		6,908	10,000	2,115	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Separately Invested Funds - Hughes		407,127	376,507	407,127	420,783	416,275	408,685	397,673
Perpetual Funds (Separately Invested) - Hughes		876,219	876,219	876,219	990,446	990,446	990,446	990,446
Total Hughes Funds		1,290,254	1,262,726	1,285,461	1,421,229	1,416,721	1,409,131	1,398,119

Walton Trust

Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
1352	Common Fund Interest	540	490	240	380	400	310	200
2117	Chaplaincy- Ballarat	1,200	1,200	800	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
Surplus/(Deficit)		(660)	(710)	(560)	(820)	(800)	(890)	(1,000)
Specific Funds - Walton		4,184	3,474	3,624	3,364	2,564	1,674	674

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%

**Budget
for
Approval**

12%

12%

12%

General Operations

Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1440	Other Investment Income	7,456	0	0		0	0	0
1359	Interest Common Fund General	86,177	85,000	58,450	88,000	88,000	86,000	85,000
1240	Grant from Balfour Trust (Grants Received)	16,085	27,000	8,283	9,500	10,000	0	0
Total Income		109,718	112,000	66,733	97,500	98,000	86,000	85,000
Expenditure								
2130	Computer & Software Costs	0	0	90	0	120	120	120
2140	Consultancy	0	900	0	900	400	0	0
2290	Grants Paid	7,400	0	0	0	0	0	0
2401	Interest Subsidy Ministers Car Loans	10,445	15,000	6,561	10,000	10,000	9,000	8,000
2700	Postage, Printing & Stationery	98	600	522	600	500	500	500
2881	Sustentation Travel Grants	11,780	9,200	0	9,200	5,000	5,000	5,000
2885	Superannuation Subsidy	16,085	27,000	8,283	9,500	10,000	0	0
2889	Sustentation Expense General	83,541	116,000	47,965	65,000	100,000	100,000	100,000
2910	Telephone/email Convenor	240	1,000	516	1,000	600	600	600
2920	Travelling Expenses - meetings	262	1,200	574	1,200	900	900	900
Total Expenses		129,851	170,900	64,511	97,400	127,520	116,120	115,120
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(20,133)	(58,900)	2,223	100	(29,520)	(30,120)	(30,120)
General Funds		816,467	757,567	818,690	816,567	787,047	756,927	726,807
Peperual Funds		42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466	42,466

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%

**Budget
for
Approval**
12%

12%

12%

Long Service Leave Funds

Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1130	LSL Levy	40,300	39,900	39,550	39,550	39,900	39,900	39,900
1135	Entitlements tsf from other states	29,049	0	0	0	0	0	0
1358	Interest Common Fund General	93,194	91,000	66,783	101,000	99,000	97,000	95,000
Total Income		162,543	130,900	106,333	140,550	138,900	136,900	134,900
Expenditure								
2550	Long Service Accrual - not cash	146,199	124,943	88,382	124,943	126,316	127,681	132,779
Total Expenses		146,199	124,943	88,382	124,943	126,316	127,681	132,779
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		16,344	5,957	17,950	15,607	12,584	9,219	2,121
	Long Service Taken - cash	102,445	180,000	53,760	180,000	180,000	180,000	180,000
Provision for Long Service Leave		776,347	721,290	810,969	721,290	667,606	615,286	568,065
General Funds		1,139,570	1,090,470	1,192,142	1,100,120	1,059,020	1,015,920	970,820

**METRO Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15**

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/17 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund	82,437	83,200	56,642	84,000	81,600	79,700	77,200
1650	Youth Metro Income	1,700	1,500	1,750	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
1040	Events Income	575	250	341	250	600	600	600
1060	Conference Income / Book Sales	0	200	0	200	0	0	0
Total Income		84,712	85,150	58,733	85,950	83,700	81,800	79,300
Expenditure								
2030	Advertising & Website	225	500	225	500	5,000	500	500
2221	Youth Metro Expenses	11,187	15,000	9,268	13,000	12,500	12,500	12,500
2222	Adult Metro Expenses	60	750	355	750	2,500	2,500	2,500
2250	Events	1,479	1,500	1,266	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
2280	Convener Expenses	80	500	0	500	150	150	150
	Training Officer Expenses			0		350	350	350
2289	Contingency	0	500	0	500	500	500	500
2290	Grants for trainees	61,113	63,500	36,644	60,500	78,000	96,000	96,000
2709	Postage, Printing & Stationery	0	500	257	500	350	350	350
2850	Subscriptions, Books & Journals	0	1,000	0	500	250	250	250
2920	Travelling Expenses	228	100	199	100	300	300	300
2291	Training Officer Wage	0	30,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	0
Total Committee Expenditure		74,371	113,850	68,214	108,350	131,400	144,900	114,900
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		10,341	(28,700)	(9,481)	(22,400)	(47,700)	(63,100)	(35,600)
General Funds		863,383	851,233	853,902	840,983	793,283	730,183	694,583

Ministry Development Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1359	Interest Common Fund	151,803	133,000	101,293	152,000	127,000	83,000	59,000
1640	Scots Church Property Trust	435,633	500,000	407,734	407,734	500,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
1660	Embers to Flame Conference	2,138		15	15			
1990	Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	230		0	0			
Total Income		589,804	633,000	509,042	559,749	627,000	1,083,000	1,059,000
Expenditure								
1. Grants								
2860	Subsidies to Congregations	194,238	300,000	197,208	300,000	360,200	300,000	300,000
2862	Superannuation Subsidies			9,215				
2864	Second Ministry Workers	84,060	100,000	76,167	109,333	64,875	75,000	75,000
2867	Cross Cultural Subsidies	157,688	163,500	72,000	163,500	164,250	165,000	165,000
2290	Grants Paid - Capital	467,860	900,000	134,843	350,000	600,000	600,000	261,500
	Grants - Ararat & Bairnsdale properties			548,000	548,000			
2865	Intentional Interim Ministry	0	10,000	0	0	0	0	0
Total Grants		903,845	1,473,500	1,037,432	1,470,833	1,189,325	1,140,000	801,500
2. Ministry Development Director								
2181	Depreciation - Motor Vehicle	4,952	4,951	3,297	4,951	5,775	5,775	5,775
2280	General Expenses	1,138	1,000	439	1,000	500	500	500
2790	Manse Allowance	24,000	24,000	16,000	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
2831	HM Director's Discretionary	399	1,000	49	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2850	Subscriptions	290	200	136	200	200	200	200
2955	Disability Insurance	1,124	1,180	1,075	1,075	1,129	1,185	1,244
2540	Light Power & Heating	4,234	4,000	3,676	5,514	6,500	6,500	6,500
2550	Long Service Leave Levy	350	450	350	350	350	350	350
2600	Motor Vehicle Running Costs	6,825	7,000	3,832	5,749	7,000	7,000	7,000
2640	Non Cash Benefits	17,842	18,377	11,894	17,842	18,288	18,653	19,213
2710	Property Expenses	180						
2810	Salary	33,138	34,132	22,529	33,793	34,638	35,331	36,391
2870	Superannuation	7,647	7,876	5,164	7,745	7,939	8,098	8,341
2141	Professional Supervision	70	1,000	70	1,000	600	600	600
2910	Telephone & Fax	4,079	4,000	2,666	3,999	4,000	4,000	4,000
2920	Travelling Expenses	2,794	6,000	3,033	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2950	WorkCover	520	657	564	564	662	670	682
Total Ministry Development Director Expenses		109,582	115,823	74,774	114,781	118,580	119,862	121,795

Ministry Development Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
3. Office								
2030	Advertising	0	1,000	700	1,000	2,000	1,000	1,000
2060	Bank Charges	110	100	72	100	100	100	100
2180	Depreciation Office Equipment	2,049	2,100	1,581	2,262	2,100	2,100	2,100
2282	General Expenses	358	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2551	Long Service Leave Accrual	573	902	712	1,068	1,098	1,146	1,207
2752	Office Rental	16,224	16,873	11,249	16,873	17,548	18,162	18,798
2912	Telephone & Fax	1,100	1,500	727	1,091	1,200	1,200	1,200
2130	Computer & Software Costs	890	1,000	845	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	2,962	6,000	1,507	3,015	6,000	6,000	3,000
2812	Salaries	41,573	49,198	29,745	44,617	45,733	46,647	48,047
2872	Superannuation	4,167	4,920	3,077	4,462	4,573	4,665	4,805
2952	WorkCover Levy	356	487	418	418	453	462	476
Total Office Expenses		70,362	85,080	50,634	76,906	82,805	83,482	82,732
4. Committee								
2830	Staff Amenities	1,203	1,200	832	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,200
2922	Travelling Expenses	812	500	399	500	600	600	600
Total Committee Expenses		2,015	1,700	1,231	1,700	1,800	1,800	1,800
5. District Interim Moderator Expenses								
2815	Stipend - District Interim Moderator	0	17,360	6,437	10,728	26,391	26,919	27,726
2645	Non Cash Benefits	0	9,355	3,398	5,664	13,933	14,212	14,638
	LSL Levy			350	350	700	700	700
2875	Superannuation	0	4,000	1,475	2,459	6,049	6,170	6,355
2795	Manse Allowance	0	12,160	4,576	7,627	18,424	18,424	18,424
2225	District Interim Moderator	0	2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total District Interim Moderator Expenses		0	44,875	16,237	28,828	67,497	68,424	69,843
6. Miscellaneous								
2140	Consultancy	0	1,000	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2220	Education & Training	1,105	2,000	506	2,000	8,000	2,000	2,000
2230	Evangelistic Materials	0	1,000	0	1,000	2,500	1,000	1,000
2581	Training inc. Embers to Flame, ESL, Peacewise	18,265	10,000	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		19,370	14,000	506	14,000	21,500	14,000	14,000
Total Expenses		1,105,173	1,734,978	1,180,814	1,707,048	1,481,507	1,427,568	1,091,670
Surplus/(Deficit) Operations		(515,369)	(1,101,978)	(671,771)	(1,147,299)	(854,507)	(344,568)	(32,670)

Ministry Development Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval 12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Balance of General Funds		2,291,188	1,193,963	2,173,007	1,698,970	828,437	492,890	469,301
Capital Items								
	Computer	1,364	2,000			0		
	Photocopier		1,200		1,200	0		
	Other	2,682	0	(548,000)	(548,000)	0	0	0
	Motor Vehicle (less trade in)	10,442	0		0	25,000	0	0
Total Capital Expenditure			3,200	(548,000)	(546,800)	25,000	0	0

Ministry Development Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
12%							12%	12%
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income		***Church Extension Victoria***						
1351	Common Fund Interest Specific	69,579	42,100	28,385	43,400	29,000	14,400	4,200
Total Income		69,579	42,100	28,385	43,400	29,000	14,400	4,200
Expenditure								
2291	Grants Paid	300,000	150,000	0	150,000	150,000	100,000	8,500
Total Expenses		300,000	150,000	0	150,000	150,000	100,000	8,500
Surplus/(Deficit)		(230,421)	(107,900)	28,385	(106,600)	(121,000)	(85,600)	(4,300)
	Specific Funds	320,944	213,044	349,329	214,344	93,344	7,744	3,444
	Perpetual Funds	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913	26,913
Income		***Church Extension Other States***						
1352	Common Fund Interest Specific	1,171	1,100	417	700	800	800	800
Total Income		1,171	1,100	417	700	800	800	800
Expenditure								
2292	Grants Paid	3,377	1,000	668	951	800	800	800
Total Expenses		3,377	1,000	668	951	800	800	800
Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,207)	100	(251)	(251)	0	0	0
	Specific Funds	251	351	0	0	0	0	0
	Perpetual Funds	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913	6,913
Income		***Evangelism***						
1353	Common Fund Interest Specific	146,085	52,300	100,750	153,400	159,800	161,500	160,600
Total Income		146,085	52,300	100,750	153,400	159,800	161,500	160,600
Expenditure								
2293	Grants Paid Evangelism	17,717	40,000	12,801	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
2861	Second Ministry Workers	84,059	0	0	0	21,625	25,000	25,000
	Daylesford					41,000	41,000	41,000
	Bundoora					23,000	23,000	23,000
	Additional Evangelism Project					20,000	20,000	20,000
2863	AFES Workers	20,000	20,000	10,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Total Expenses		121,776	60,000	22,801	60,000	145,625	169,000	169,000
Surplus/(Deficit)		24,309	(7,700)	77,949	93,400	14,175	(7,500)	(8,400)
	Specific Funds	1,198,201	1,190,501	1,276,150	1,291,601	1,305,776	1,298,276	1,289,876
	Perpetual Funds	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992	39,992

Ministry Development Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
12%							12%	12%
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income		***Noble Trust***						
1355	Common Fund Interest Specific	60,176	56,400	34,694	52,300	45,700	37,200	26,600
Total Income		60,176	56,400	34,694	52,300	45,700	37,200	26,600
Expenditure								
2813	Salaries (inc NCB)	65,992	52,505	22,228	52,505	52,250	53,295	54,894
2281	General Expenses	6,880	1,000	2,260	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
2873	Superannuation	46,374	52,509	17,097	52,509	45,365	53,984	55,604
2953	Workcover Levy	371	473	406	406	408	486	500
2586	Ministers Conference	0	1,000	0	1,000	1,200	1,200	1,200
2295	Grants Paid	18,089	15,000	3,354	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
2923	Travelling / Training Expenses	0	500	0	500	1,000	1,000	500
Total Expenses		137,706	122,987	45,345	122,920	116,224	125,965	128,698
Surplus/(Deficit)		(77,530)	(66,587)	(10,651)	(70,620)	(70,524)	(88,765)	(102,098)
	Specific Funds	326,259	259,672	315,608	255,639	185,115	96,350	(5,748)
	Perpetual Funds	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000	125,000
		TOTAL						
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		(285,848)	(182,087)	95,431	(84,071)	(177,349)	(181,865)	(114,798)
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(515,369)	(1,101,978)	(671,771)	(1,147,299)	(854,507)	(344,568)	(32,670)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		(801,217)	(1,284,064)	(576,340)	(1,231,370)	(1,031,856)	(526,433)	(147,469)
Total Specific Trusts		1,845,656	1,663,569	1,941,087	1,761,584	1,584,236	1,402,370	1,287,572
Total Perpetual Funds		198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818	198,818

Social Services Committee
Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

					Budget for Approval
	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	7 Months to Jan-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed
Income					
Commonwealth Funding	6,488,529	6,647,063	3,828,227	6,600,000	6,700,000
Resident Fees	2,092,843	2,082,000	1,299,655	2,230,000	2,285,000
Fund Raising Activities	552	600			1,000
Resident Contribution	990				
Interest Received	31,513	7,500	9,419	18,000	10,000
Traineeship Incentive Payments	12,500		5,000	5,000	
Catering Income	13,613	8,700	6,255	10,700	11,000
Other Operating Income	117,072	17,000	16,761	26,000	26,000
Total Operating Income	8,757,612	8,762,863	5,165,317	8,889,700	9,033,000
Commonwealth Subsidy - Capital	61,196	60,000	20,202	30,000	33,000
Accommodation Charge	767,540	742,000	455,512	780,000	792,000
Retentions On Bonds	287,154	288,000	160,373	270,000	216,000
Interest and Investment Income	1,174,048	685,000	620,508	900,000	900,000
Net Gain/(Loss) on sale of Investments	976,281		(11,399)		
Net Unrealised Gain on Investments	442,593				
Other Income	8,102	7,158	3,457	5,000	5,000
Total Non-Operating Income	3,716,914	1,782,158	1,248,653	1,985,000	1,946,000
Expenditure					
Catering Costs	288,431	319,151	181,505	315,000	340,000
Administration Expenses	229,863	179,800	158,207	205,000	230,000
Motor Vehicle And Transport Expenses	5,628	17,400	9,422	16,000	17,000
Maintenance - Hand Tools & Equipment	700	2,500	943	2,000	2,000
Committee Expenses	10,964	10,000	5,000	10,000	10,000
Chemist And Medical	80,526	76,400	31,781	55,000	60,000
Contenance Costs	67,070	63,000	48,758	73,000	76,000
Cleaning, Laundry, House & Infection Control	298,530	296,800	176,310	300,000	307,000
Consultants Fees	69,024	75,000	37,567	70,000	74,000
Contract Therapy	425,547	429,700	285,877	450,000	450,000
Insurance	81,856	91,800	48,469	85,000	90,000
Rates, Taxes And Utilities	258,716	290,000	154,741	300,000	315,000
Occupational Health & Safety	10,935	3,000	6,244	10,000	10,000
Maintenance Costs	343,861	422,749	236,280	422,000	460,000

Social Services Committee
Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	7 Months to Jan-14	2013/2014 Projected	Budget for Approval 2014/2015 Proposed
Total Security Costs	42,271	33,600	17,803	31,000	32,000
Staff Costs	6,740,977	7,123,794	4,138,952	7,050,000	7,400,000
Depreciation Charges					
Depreciation	725,974	772,243	421,207	720,000	800,000
Total Operating Expenses Before Depreciation	8,954,901	9,434,694	5,537,860	9,394,000	9,873,000
SSC Non Operating Costs	7,000	7,200	4,083	7,000	7,000
Sale of Assets			(706)		
Total Non-Operating Expenses	7,000	7,200	3,377	7,000	7,000
Total Operating Result	(923,263)	(1,444,074)	(793,750)	(1,224,300)	(1,640,000)
Total Non Operating Result	3,709,914	1,774,958	1,245,276	1,978,000	1,939,000
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations	2,786,651	330,884	451,526	753,700	299,000
Capital Items					
Net capital works cost - ILU's					2,000,000
Total Capital Exenditure					2,000,000
General Funds - Common Fund	10,730	5,000	1,524	5,000	5,000
General Funds - Separately Invested	18,556,927	17,500,000	19,275,320	19,872,811	18,971,811
Perpetual Funds	39,150	39,150	39,150	39,150	39,150

State News Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1062	Advertising Income	780	500	0	0	0	0	0
1080	General Mission Programme	4,497	5,000	4,009	5,000	0	0	0
1359	Interest Common Fund General	6,200	6,100	4,117	6,300	6,800	6,700	6,700
Total Income		11,477	11,600	8,125	11,300	6,800	6,700	6,700
Expenditure								
2130	Software & Website Costs		150	0	150	150	0	0
2180	Depreciation	453	0	0	0	533	533	533
2280	General Expenses		250	0	250	250	250	250
2630	Newsletter Production Costs	9,984	10,000	6,784	9,200	10,800	10,800	10,800
1064	Less Contribution recouped			(2,259)	(3,500)	(5,400)	(5,400)	(5,400)
2920	Travelling Expenses		500	0	500	500	500	500
Total Expenses		10,436	10,900	4,525	6,600	6,833	6,683	6,683
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		1,041	700	3,600	4,700	(33)	17	17
General Funds		51,965	52,815	55,565	56,665	55,565	56,115	56,665
Capital Items								
	Computer			0	0	1,600	0	0
Total Capital Exenditure		0	0	0	0	1,600	0	0

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

		Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:				12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Income								
1702	Tuition - Fee paying students	213,686	277,592	120,193	241,244	254,509	280,596	309,357
1700	Tuition ex Bursaries (Candidates)	134,000	81,982	61,630	153,049	159,280	189,591	195,668
1703	Tuition Fees Short Courses	8,422	8,000	2,291	5,000	8,000	8,000	8,000
1709	Ministers Conference Income	3,364	3,000	1,077	4,441	3,500	3,000	3,000
	TOTAL Tuition Fees	359,471	370,574	185,190	403,733	425,289	481,187	516,025
1168	Donations and Gifts General	1,984	5,000	130	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
1080	General Mission Programme	88,580	32,887	26,367	32,887	16,594	0	0
1243	METRO Funding re Training Officer		30,000	20,000	30,000	30,000	30,000	
1359	Interest Common Fund-General	222,266	222,000	153,495	231,000	232,000	231,000	232,000
1600	Rental of TEC Manse	15,324	14,560	9,803	14,560	14,851	14,851	14,851
1601	Rental Income Accommm Units	58,235	62,560	46,818	69,512	70,902	73,029	75,220
1650	Sundry Income	2,474	1,000	1,518	1,518	0	0	0
1990	(Loss) on Disposal of Assets	0		(1,751)	(1,751)			
Total Income		748,334	738,580	441,570	786,459	794,637	835,068	843,096
Expenditure								
Staff Related								
2810	Salaries	190,618	218,054	142,528	208,515	214,255	199,735	227,303
2640	Non Cash Benefits	56,055	71,714	34,450	65,504	67,306	58,265	71,404
2600	Motor Vehicle Running Expenses	6,607	9,000	4,144	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2830	Staff Amenities	109	0	630	630	500	0	0
2870	Superannuation	36,543	39,222	23,612	36,881	37,895	34,231	40,203
2950	WorkCover Levy	5,219	5,371	6,138	6,138	6,322	6,512	6,708
2955	Disability Insurance	5,713	5,885	4,437	4,437	4,559	4,695	4,836
2550	Long Service Leave Levy			1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400
2550	Long Service Leave accrual (non cash)	2,658	3,120	3,344	5,016	5,267	5,530	5,807
2840	Study Leave accrual (non cash)	32,601	45,075	26,040	40,039	41,042	36,530	48,433
2848	Study Leave Expenses (cash)	3,000	7,000	1,336	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2181	Depreciation Motor Vehicle	4,397	5,250	2,927	5,250	5,250	5,250	5,250
2541	Lighting & Heating - Manses	11,433	9,000	4,855	9,000	11,000	11,000	11,000
2911	Telephone & Fax-Manses	7,063	7,000	4,072	7,000	7,000	8,000	8,000
2490	Lecturers' Fees	46,225	42,080	33,503	43,103	43,000	44,290	45,619
2240	Lecturers' Fees - Exam Marking	1,440	0	4,653	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2920	Travelling Expenses	12,709	12,000	6,513	10,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
2229	Education & Training	2,567	6,000	2,674	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
2810	Missions Course Funding		62 (25,000)	(17,212)	(25,000)	0	0	0

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

						Budget for Approval		
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
2810	Business Manager					20,000	20,600	21,218
Total Staff Related Expenses		424,958	460,772	290,045	443,913	502,796	474,040	535,181
2792	Total Manse Expenses (not met by Fernside)	2,366	0	0	0	0	0	0
2520	Total Library Related Expenses	51,952	53,200	37,386	47,058	55,870	56,756	57,669
Office Related								
2910	Telephone & Fax	6,418	8,000	5,460	8,000	8,500	8,500	8,500
2700	Postage Printing & Stationery	13,903	15,000	12,603	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
2540	Light Power & Heating	14,157	17,000	10,683	17,000	17,500	19,250	21,175
2760	Equipment Repairs & Maintenance	355	500	0	500	500	500	500
2130	Computer & Software Costs	10,043	8,500	3,819	8,500	6,000	6,000	6,000
2850	CCLI, Copyright	1,845	2,100	661	2,100	2,000	2,000	2,000
2392	Insurance Professional Indemnity	2,892	3,037	3,202	3,202	3,362	3,530	3,706
Total Office Related Expenses		49,612	54,137	36,427	54,302	52,862	54,780	56,881
Property Related								
2183	Depreciation Plant & Equipment	6,427	6,459	2,689	4,034	3,859	3,859	3,859
2186	Depreciation Buildings	33,443	33,600	22,201	33,302	33,600	33,600	33,600
2120	Cleaning & Rubbish Removal	10,597	9,500	6,682	9,500	10,000	10,000	10,000
2820	Security Costs	1,614	1,500	507	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Total Property Related Expenses		52,081	51,059	32,079	48,335	48,959	48,959	48,959
Training Officer								
2815	Salaries	33,138	33,966	22,529	33,793	34,723	35,764	36,837
2641	Non Cash Benefits	26,122	18,288	12,134	17,842	18,332	18,882	19,449
2641	NCB - Extra Travel		8,303	5,400	8,100	8,323	8,572	8,830
2752	Manse / Rent	23,400	23,400	15,600	23,400	23,400	23,400	23,400
2555	Long Service Leave	350	300	350	350	300	300	300
2545	Utilities	2,918	2,100	2,302	3,453	2,100	2,100	2,100
2228	Office Expenses, Conferences, Materials	272	800	83	800	800	800	800
2915	Telephone	2,069	2,000	1,423	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2925	Travel Expenses - Training	290		0	0			
2875	Superannuation	7,647	7,838	5,164	7,745	7,958	8,197	8,443
2951	WorkCover Levy	477	516	531	531	523	575	633
2956	Disability Insurance	1,115	1,149	1,075	1,075	1,107	1,140	1,197
Total Training Officer Expenses		97,796	98,660	66,591	99,089	99,566	101,731	103,988

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12.0%						Budget for Approval	12.0%	12.0%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Miscellaneous Expenses								
2030	Advertising / Student Prospectus	13,830	7,000	2,085	7,000	7,000	7,000	7,000
2032	Marketing		12,000	3,200	12,000	8,000	12,000	12,000
2927	College Mission Support (Travel Expenses)					6,000	6,000	6,000
2045	ACT Admin Fees	31,345	35,957	17,959	35,957	41,379	47,019	50,502
2050	Affiliation & Admin Fees	5,665	5,000	5,835	5,835	6,000	5,000	5,000
2060	Bank Charges, FID & Debits Tax	1,933	2,000	1,258	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2180	Depreciation	11,790	10,000	7,822	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
2922	End of Year Dinner	2,473		1,524	1,524			
2290	Graduation Ceremony	4,255		1,631	3,221	3,000	2,500	2,500
2285	General Expenses - Missions Course	338	0	254	254	300	0	0
2921	Hospitality	2,664	2,000	1,650	2,000	2,500	2,000	2,000
2831	Student Expenses	1,979	2,000	946	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
2280	General Expenses	2,140	2,000	751	1,200	4,000	6,000	6,000
2286	Westminster costs			4,251		0	0	0
2586	Ministers' Conference Expenses	7,236	6,000	302	4,532	5,000	6,000	6,000
Total Miscellaneous Expenses		85,648	83,957	49,466	87,523	97,179	107,519	111,002
Residential Units								
2185	Depreciation (Residential Units)	27,657	27,730	18,412	27,730	27,730	27,730	27,730
2542	Light & Power	509	1,000	20	20	0	0	0
2391	Insurance	1,080	1,134	971	971	1,019	1,070	1,124
2712	Maintenance & Cleaning	12,747	4,000	1,641	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
2350	Property Manager Honorarium	1,671	0	0	0	0	0	0
2751	Rates	664	1,800	414	827	1,000	2,000	2,000
Total Residential Units		44,327	35,664	21,457	33,548	33,749	34,800	34,854
PTC Media Income								
1065	Book Shop Sales	20,521	31,000	12,690	16,920	30,000	50,000	60,000
1066	Less: Purchases (enter as negative)	(8,966)	(11,500)	(3,115)	(10,000)	(24,000)	(25,000)	(30,000)
Total PTC Media Income		11,555	19,500	9,575	6,920	6,000	25,000	30,000

Theological Education Committee
General Operations
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%	12.0%
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Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						Budget for Approval	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Building Fund								
Income								
1160	Donations & Gifts	11,078	20,000	11,336	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
1350	Interest Common Fund	10,021	9,100	5,452	8,200	6,800	4,800	2,500
Total Income		21,099	29,100	16,789	28,200	26,800	24,800	22,500
Expenditure								
2061	Bank Charges	285	270	160	240	270	270	270
2390	Insurance Fire & General	4,917	5,163	4,419	4,419	4,640	4,872	5,116
2750	Rates & Taxes	3,259	4,200	4,248	4,248	4,400	4,400	4,400
2710	Property Maintenance	26,708	30,000	8,126	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
2711	Property Maintenance - Gardening	3,618	2,500	2,655	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000
Total Expenses		38,788	42,133	19,609	42,907	43,310	43,542	43,786
Surplus/(Deficit) Building Fund		(17,688)	(13,033)	(2,820)	(14,707)	(16,510)	(18,742)	(21,286)
Specific Funds		71,140	58,107	68,037	56,433	39,922	21,180	(106)
Library Fund								
Income								
1161	Donations & Gifts	5,444	3,000	4,502	4,502	3,000	3,000	3,000
1351	Interest Common Fund	11,876	11,900	7,938	11,900	11,900	11,900	11,900
Total Income		17,319	14,900	12,440	16,402	14,900	14,900	14,900
Expenditure								
2062	Bank Charges	285	240	160	240	240	240	240
2182	Depreciation Library Equipment	3,941	7,525	4,789	7,525	7,420	7,300	7,300
2521	Library Books	22,124	20,000	19,391	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2529	Library Magazines & Journals	23,043	20,000	13,373	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
2709	Postage Printing & Stationery	1,367	1,000	1,435	1,435	1,000	1,000	1,000
2814	Library Wages	23,451	24,418	14,309	19,804	26,846	27,651	28,481
2871	Library Superannuation	2,315	2,442	1,433	1,980	2,685	2,765	2,848
Total Expenses		76,526	75,625	54,890	70,985	78,190	78,956	79,869
Surplus/(Deficit) Library Fund		(59,207)	(60,725)	(42,451)	(54,583)	(63,290)	(64,056)	(64,969)
2535	Expenses paid from General Budget	(51,952)	(53,200)	(37,386)	(47,058)	(55,870)	(56,756)	(57,669)
Perpetual Funds		98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964	98,964

Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						Budget for Approval	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Fernside Trust								
Income								
1353	Interest Common Fund	133,158	138,000	90,388	137,000	143,000	150,000	158,000
Total Income		133,158	138,000	90,388	137,000	143,000	150,000	158,000
Expenditure								
2793	Manse Allowances	81,900	70,200	46,800	70,200	70,200	70,200	70,200
2754	Principal's Rent	27,120	27,120	21,066	29,120	29,994	30,893	31,820
2794	Funding (From) General Budget Funds	(2,366)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total Expenses		106,654	97,320	67,866	99,320	100,194	101,093	102,020
Surplus/(Deficit) Fernside Trust		26,504	40,680	22,522	37,680	42,806	48,907	55,980
	Specific Funds	0	6,680	13,830	3,680	46,486	95,393	151,373
	Indexation of Capital	26,504	34,000	8,692	34,000	35,000	36,000	37,000
	Perpetual Funds	1,124,273	1,158,273	1,132,965	1,158,273	1,193,273	1,229,273	1,266,273
Bursary Trusts								
Income								
1050	Bequests			19,385	19,385	0	0	0
1162	Donations & Gifts	42,608	25,400	2,000	25,400	27,000	27,000	27,000
1081	GMP funding		61,506	49,311	61,506	62,388	24,792	35,441
1352	Interest Common Fund	82,072	84,100	53,016	81,900	82,100	81,500	72,700
Total Income		124,680	171,006	123,712	188,191	171,488	133,292	135,141
Expenditure								
2072	Bursaries Specific	37,621	25,000	12,900	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
2073	Scholarships - Candidates	99,368	58,340	42,540	123,959	151,608	181,751	187,629
2073	Scholarships - Other	30,206	12,559	17,690	27,690	4,300	4,300	4,300
Total Expenses		167,194	95,899	73,130	176,649	176,608	206,751	212,629
Surplus/(Deficit) Bursaries		(42,515)	75,107	50,582	11,542	(5,120)	(73,459)	(77,487)
	Specific Funds	134,468	209,575	185,050	146,010	140,890	67,432	(10,056)
	Perpetual Funds	538,297	538,297	538,297	538,297	538,297	538,297	538,297

Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Theological Education Committee Specific Trusts Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15						Budget for Approval			
Projected Common Fund Interest Rates:						12%	12%	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected	
***Prizes Trusts ***									
Income									
1164	Donations & Gifts			500	500		0	0	
1354	Interest Common Fund	13,996	14,500	9,930	15,200	15,400	16,500	17,700	
Total Income		13,996	14,500	10,430	15,700	15,400	16,500	17,700	
Expenditure									
2084	Prizes Specific	5,273	6,100	0	9,500	6,100	6,100	6,100	
Total Expenses		5,273	6,100	0	9,500	6,100	6,100	6,100	
Surplus/(Deficit) Prizes		8,723	8,400	10,430	6,200	9,300	10,400	11,600	
	Specific Funds	91,412	99,812	101,842	97,612	106,912	117,312	128,912	
	Perpetual Funds	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	30,515	
Diaconal Fund									
Income									
1357	Interest Common Fund	15,938	16,500	11,088	17,000	18,300	20,100	22,100	
Total Income		15,938	16,500	11,088	17,000	18,300	20,100	22,100	
2075	Scholarships	8,005	11,083	1,400	1,400	3,372	3,541	3,739	
Total Expenses		8,005	11,083	1,400	1,400	3,372	3,541	3,739	
Surplus/(Deficit) Diaconal Fund		7,933	5,418	9,688	15,600	14,928	16,559	18,361	
	Specific Funds	137,011	142,429	146,699	152,611	167,539	184,098	202,459	

Theological Education Committee
Specific Trusts
Income & Expenditure Budget 2014/15

Projected Common Fund Interest Rates: 12%						Budget for Approval	12%	12%
Account No	Description	2012/2013 Actual	2013/2014 Budget	8 Months to Feb-14	2013/2014 Projected	2014/2015 Proposed	2015/2016 Projected	2016/2017 Projected
Miscellaneous Trusts Hopkins, Oliver, Missions, Overseas Students, Deaf Interpreters								
Income								
1356	Interest Common Fund	30,020	28,800	19,426	29,400	28,500	30,200	32,200
Total Income		30,020	28,800	19,426	29,400	28,500	30,200	32,200
Expenditure								
2076	Bursaries (Oliver)	12,000	12,000	0	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
2811	Missions Course	25,490	25,000	17,212	25,000	0	0	0
2296	Ministers' Conference Expenses (Oliver)		2,000	0	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Total Expenses		37,490	39,000	17,212	39,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Surplus/(Deficit) Miscellaneous		(7,470)	(10,200)	2,214	(9,600)	14,500	16,200	18,200
	Specific Funds	194,907	184,707	197,121	185,307	199,807	216,007	234,207
	Perpetual Funds	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225	52,225
Surplus/(Deficit) on Operations		(65,317)	(97,581)	(92,931)	(34,858)	(99,394)	(19,434)	(76,147)
Surplus/(Deficit) Specific Trusts		(31,767)	98,847	87,551	39,190	52,484	(7,435)	(1,932)
Total Surplus/(Deficit)		(97,085)	1,266	(5,381)	4,331	(46,910)	(26,869)	(78,080)
Total Specific Funds		628,938	701,310	712,579	641,653	701,557	701,422	706,789
Total Perpetual Funds		1,844,274	1,878,274	1,852,966	1,878,274	1,913,274	1,949,274	1,986,274

AD HOC COMMITTEE RE FEDERAL VISION (Min. 11)

The Committee has revised chapter 8 of the statement, as follows. The whole statement is included at the end of chapter 8.

8. Baptism

The problem here is that FV attributes to the rite of water baptism too great an efficacy. This emphasis grows out of and is consistent with its high view of the institutional Church as the only Church and the means of grace for salvation.

8.1 *The sign and the reality*

The nub of the question is the relation between the outward sign and the spiritual reality it signifies. 'Baptism is the work of both water and the Spirit (cf. John 3:5). Water alone is not baptism, it is an empty symbol. Nor is the work of the Spirit apart from the means of water a baptism. The sacrament includes both. Baptism is more than just a sign; it is also the grace signified.' (Rich Lusk) But while the Bible makes a close connection between water and the Holy Spirit's secret work in the heart (Acts 2:38) it nowhere makes the connection absolute as though the sign and saving grace are interchangeable or simultaneous. That the work of the Holy Spirit does not always run concurrently with the act of baptism is illustrated in the case of Simon who despite being baptised was found to be in a state of serious unbelief and hardness (Acts 8:21-23).

Saving faith is always the context for water baptism in the New Testament (Acts 2:41, 8:12-13, 30-39, 9:17-19, 10:44-48, 16:13-15, 29-33, 19:1-5), being produced normally by the preached message and the sovereign working of the Holy Spirit through and with that word of truth in the heart and mind of the hearer (Acts 11:14-15, 16:14, Rom 1:16-17, 10:14). Water baptism then follows faith in the sense of confirming and strengthening what the believer in Jesus has already believed, received and become. This is what the WCF also teaches (WCF XIV/1-2). Baptism is not therefore a converting ordinance but is dependent on and subordinate to the preached Word of Christ through whom alone we can be received into the kingdom of grace and life. In contrast to this FV rarely refers to the preaching of the Word in connection with water baptism, instead giving baptism the leading role.

FV is sceptical of any teaching that draws attention to the fruits of saving faith in a person's life as a way of deciding those who are worthy of the sacrament (1 Cor 11:27-29). 'It is true that when a person is a believer, the external sign does conform with these internal spiritual realities. But what are these realities? Regeneration? Christ is our Regeneration. Redemption? Christ is our Redemption. Forgiveness? Christ is our Forgiveness.' (Douglas Wilson) The problem here is that Jesus Christ as our Representative in salvation is so one-sidedly affirmed that salvation in its objective *and subjective/experiential* aspects is wholly said to be found in him. The result is that those who profess his Name must simply presume that these are true for them despite the lack of visible, conscious evidence. But this can only encourage a faith that consists in a mental assent to the truth of the Christian faith, a faith that stops short of that fiducial self-entrustment to Jesus Christ for righteousness and life that is the heartbeat of biblical religion. Douglas Wilson concedes that the fruit of a person's life proves that he/she is unregenerate; why cannot the same test apply to prove a person regenerate in Christ?

On the assumption of a typology between priestly ordination under the old covenant and water baptism under the new Peter Leithart attributes an objective causal

efficacy to Christian baptism. 'Baptism clothes us as priests and these clothes remake the man.' 'Baptism effects a transition not only in the regard of men but in the "gaze" of God and this makes us "new creation" in the deepest possible sense.' 'Baptism grants a share in the life of salvation.' 'Baptism is necessary for salvation.' But all such statements fail to grasp the distinction made across the New Testament (also the WCF XXVII/2) between the sacramental sign and the reality signified. For example, Paul plays down whatever baptismal ministry he engaged in at Corinth instead recalling with pride and pleasure his persistent ministry of the preached word of the Cross (1 Cor 1:13-17); and in summing up his intensive and extensive ministry at Ephesus over a 3-year period he does not even mention baptism (Acts 20:17-35). People will be eternally condemned because of final unbelief, not because they were never baptised (Mark 16:16).

Even in the case of circumcision, baptism's precursor (Col 2:11-12), the spiritual reality could not be automatically equated with the rite (Rom 2:28-29) because the rite depended on the word of God's promise for its effectiveness (Rom 3:1-2). Circumcision was a sign and seal of a personal faith already present (Rom 4:11). FV in its own way of reasoning turns baptism inside out by prioritising the outward over the inward or/and denying this traditional distinction itself. And in doing so it falls into the Galatian error of requiring the use of a sacramental rite in addition to faith alone in Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Gal 5:2-4, 6:12-16, Acts 15:5-11).

8.2 The WCF and baptismal regeneration

'The Westminster divines viewed baptism as the instrument and occasion of regeneration by the Spirit, of the remission of sins, of ingrafting into Christ (cf. 28.1). The Confession teaches baptismal regeneration.' (Rich Lusk) Actually, the WCF offers a carefully crafted statement about baptism and regeneration, teaching that 'grace and salvation are not so tied to the rite that no person can be regenerated or saved without it, or that all who are baptised are undoubtedly regenerated.' (XXVIII/5) This is fully in keeping with the distinction of Jesus between believing in him and being baptised in his name (Mark 16:15-16) or the way Paul separates the two in his apostolic ministry (1 Cor 1:14-17). The same chapter of the Confession further safeguards the integrity of baptism by warning that the Holy Spirit only confers the grace promised in the sacrament to 'such as that grace belongs to, according to the counsel of God's own will', which is code for the secret and sovereign purpose of God in election to salvation in Christ (Eph 1:4-5). Likewise the WCF claims that 'the efficacy of Baptism is not tied to that moment of time in which it is administered' but is administered by the Holy Spirit 'to such (whether of age or infants) as that grace belongs to, according to the counsel of God's own will, in his appointed time.' (XXVIII/6) These careful qualifications (see also WCF XXVII/3) clearly refute the charge of teaching baptismal regeneration.

8.3 Infant baptism

In particular, FV holds the highest view of the status of baptised covenant children, stating that it is normal for God to give such children faith in the womb. 'God is already in the process of drawing the child to Himself from the moment of conception . . . But the work isn't complete until the child receives the sign of initiation . . . The threshold into union with Christ, new life in the Spirit, and covenant membership in the family of God is actually crossed when the child is baptised.' (Rich Lusk) Likewise Douglas Wilson wants to talk of his baptised infants as already Christians, saints and heirs of the kingdom because for him union with Christ essentially means union with the church on earth through baptism. The revealed Christ is the one we

must be united with and this happens when we are united with his institutionalised Church.

However, the WCF speaks of 'elect infants' (X/3), implying that not all infants may be so, as well as limiting the grace of baptism to those individuals to whom it belongs in the covenant of grace and election. In addition there are the clear biblical examples of Isaac and Ishmael who typologically illustrate the fact that a person may receive the God-appointed rite but totally fail to receive the saving grace intended by the rite (Gen 25:23, Rom 9:10-13). FV explains this by saying that these two boys were inside the covenant in a real sense but that they chose to remove themselves from the saving covenant relationship with God through their own unbelief and disobedience.

But FV makes two errors here, first in presuming that circumcision made the covenant effective through regeneration in every case, and secondly, by elevating the fickle will of the individual over the sovereign good-pleasure of the God of salvation. Far better to say either that if Ishmael and Esau were already regenerated then they would have continued infallibly in a lifetime of believing obedience (1 Thes 1:4-6), or that by not continuing to improve the meaning of their circumcision through life-long faith and perseverance they gave clear evidence that they had never been regenerated in the first place (Heb 10:35-39, 12:15-17).

FEDERAL VISION STATEMENT (VERSION 2) 2014 (Min. 11)

1. Introduction and orientation

The *ad-hoc* committee was asked specifically to focus on the soteriology (salvation teaching) of the Federal Vision (FV hereafter) movement, not to make an assessment of the whole movement or its total theology. As a result the committee has selected those topics for analysis that in some way affect or state the movement's views on salvation. Those who wish for an understanding of the movement as a whole can find this from the sources listed at the end of this paper.

FV is essentially a movement that has arisen within the Reformed family of churches and assumes from the beginning that people are aware of and committed to the confessional teachings of the Reformed tradition that dates from the 16th and 17th centuries, including the Westminster Confession of Faith. Their title 'Federal Vision' expresses a belief in the covenant theology of that tradition along with a new vision or way of seeing it in today's world and church. FV spokesmen claim to be within the historic stream of the Reformed tradition and do not wish to be charged with heresy. Its leading spokesmen have been Douglas Wilson, Peter Leithart, Steve Schlissel, James Jordon, John Barach, Rich Lusk, Steve Wilkins, and Ralph Smith.

The views of FV are not entirely new. Some of their leading ideas can be found in streams of 20th century Dutch theology such as those of Klaas Schilder and Herman Hoeksema, that have in turn found a home in some of the smaller Reformed denominations in Canada and America. Some of the proponents of FV have also belonged to Reconstructionism with its strong attachment to the laws of the Old Testament and the political significance of the national covenant with Israel for nation states today. Yet FV is its own movement, or conversation, as its advocates would prefer to say, and should be heard in its own voices and terms. We say 'voices' because FV does not speak with one voice, its spokesmen not always agreeing among themselves about the tenets and goals of the movement. However, public statements have been made and there is enough shared perspective within the movement to critique it as a single entity.

FV owes its existence in part to the innovative teachings of Norman Shepherd in the 1970s in Philadelphia, USA, teachings that he has continued to defend. In the last decade these ideas have been taken up by other ministers in Presbyterian churches in America, leading in some cases to the formation of break-away denominations and disciplinary proceedings. A range of critical responses have been made to FV both by individuals and churches because of the perceived possibility of FV giving rise to new forms of sacramentalism, synergism, formalism and legalism. The movement has spread to other parts of the world and is making an impact in Presbyterian, reformed and confessional churches. FV spreads its message through modern media channels along with books, journals and articles, symposia, conference papers, sermons, and reviews, both in hard-copy and on-line.

FV is a reactionary movement against what it sees as some bad expressions of traditionalism in Calvinistic churches and excesses and deficiencies in evangelical churches in the North American scene generally. Some of these supposed errors have to do with doctrines like election and covenant, others with practices like baptism and evangelism. Like all intentionally corrective movements FV is in danger of over-reacting so that itself becomes in need of theological and practical correction. The larger agenda of FV is the ecumenical one of founding a catholic orthodoxy that

would work together with and learn from other ecclesiastical traditions such as Roman Catholicism and Eastern Orthodoxy, for the ultimate goal of a Christian culture and civilisation patterned after the Christendom of the first 1000 years of the Christian era.

FV raises questions not only of a theological kind but of a variety of hermeneutical issues such as the qualities of the Semitic mind compared to the Hellenistic, the relation of John Calvin's teachings to those of 17th century Protestant Scholasticism, as represented by the Westminster Confession (WCF hereafter), the supposed impact of the philosophical Enlightenment on Reformed and Evangelical theologies, and the place of reason and logic in doing theology. FV shows an aversion to systematic theology in favour rather of reading the Bible as story, a preference for the literal sense of biblical language, and a critical attitude to the use of common sense principles like good and necessary inferences from Scripture statements.

These issues lie outside the field of this report and so will not be addressed directly. However, briefly in response to these sorts of issues, the working principles of the committee have been that FV polarises the Hebrew and Greek cultures in unwarranted ways, argues for a false conflict between systematic theology and biblical theology, exaggerates the differences between Calvin and the Westminster theologies, charges the Evangelical and Reformed theological traditions unfairly with philosophical principles, and undervalues rationality and coherence in doing exegetical, biblical and systematic theology.

In aiming to follow its remit the committee has made the following findings in relation to certain errors and inconsistencies in representative statements of FV advocates, with references to the body of the report for easier reference:

In relation to **the Covenant (2)** FV alters the meaning of covenant because it:

1. Separates the covenant and election (2.1)
2. Wrongly makes the Trinity its paradigm of covenant (2.2)
3. Denies a covenant of works (2.3)
4. Denies merit, affirms maturity (2.4)
5. Flattens the biblical covenants (2.5)
6. Underestimates the new covenant (2.6)

In relation to **Election (3)** FV confuses election because it:

1. Introduces two elections (3.1)
2. Denies that election can be known (3.2)
3. Preferences corporate election (3.3)
4. Believes that election is losable (3.4)

In relation to **Justification (4)** FV changes the meaning and method of justification because it:

1. Limits justification to forgiveness (4.1)
2. Believes justification can only be known at the Last Day (4.2)
3. Blends justification with sanctification (4.3)
4. Moves the focus from Christ's death to his resurrection (4.4)

In relation to **Faith (5)** FV fails to clarify faith because it:

1. Denies that justification is by faith alone (5.1)
2. Confuses justifying faith with obedience, faithfulness, etc (5.2)
3. Preferences James over Paul (5.3)

In relation to the **Assurance of salvation (6)** FV prevents well-grounded assurance because it:

1. Denies infallible assurance (6.1)
2. Ignores biblical cases (6.2)
3. Limits the covenant promises (6.3)

In relation to **the Work of Jesus Christ (7)** FV clouds the glory of Jesus Christ as Mediator because it:

1. Opposes the active obedience of Christ (7.1)
2. Denies the imputation of Christ's righteousness (7.2)
3. Makes the resurrection the centrepiece of the Gospel (7.3)

In relation to **Baptism (8)** FV exaggerates the place and power of the sacrament because it:

1. Confuses the thing signified with the sign (8.1)
2. Believes the WCF teaches baptismal regeneration (8.2)
3. Speculates about covenant children (8.3)

In relation to **the Church (9)** FV holds to a one-sided ecclesiology because it:

1. Opposes the invisible/visible church distinction (9.1)
2. Believes apostates have been united with Christ (9.2)

2. Covenant

FV is about rethinking the concept of covenant in relation to salvation, and changing our categories and terminology as a result. The idea of covenant lies at the heart of the biblical narrative in both Testaments, and it is biblical covenant that shapes the doctrine taught in the WCF (ch. VII), a system of doctrine that is biblical, covenantal and evangelical. FV does cast a new vision for covenant theology and the reformed churches but its actual statements and reformulations undermine biblical soteriology and the system of doctrine of the WCF that it claims to be exegetically based upon.

2.1 Covenant and election

'Election is unconditional but the covenant is *never* unconditional.' (P. Andrew Sandlin) Contrary to the biblical teaching and the WCF (III/5-6) FV separates God's eternal election of his people in Christ (Rom 9:10-24, Eph 1:3-5) from the history of the covenant of grace. Speaking of the various salvation covenants of the Bible FV states: 'There is an aspect to such covenants which we may postulate as settled in the mind of God. For example, God knew and foreordained from the foundation of the world who the elect would be at the end of the world. But this foreknowledge is not the covenant itself, but rather God's ultimate knowledge of the outcome of the covenant.' (Douglas Wilson) Such a qualified statement about the divine purpose actually nullifies the sovereign grace of God to make room for a church covenant that is conditioned on human decision and life-long obedience. Since God's election is unknowable FV argues for the greater importance of the historical covenant that depends on life-long faithfulness on the part of the members of the visible covenant community.

But the New Testament traces back our salvation to God's eternal election (Rom 11:5, Eph 1:4, 2 Tim 1:9-10) so that all the glory of salvation, in all its aspects, may be given to the Triune God alone (1 Cor 1:26-31). Salvation is either by grace alone or by human works of righteousness; it cannot be both (Rom 11:6, Eph 2:8-9). The

new covenant of the Gospel is the means God has ordained for bringing about his eternal purpose to save a people for himself who will share the glory of his Son forever in a new creation. The new covenant achieves that purpose perfectly just because it is grounded in God's own purpose and the grace that he gave us unconditionally in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time (2 Tim 1:9-10).

2.2 The Trinity as the new model for covenant

'The Triune God is the archetype of the covenant. The Trinity, not Ancient Near Eastern suzerain treaties, must define our view of the covenant . . . The covenant within the Trinity is the model for extra-Trinitarian covenants . . . The creation covenant is just the loving outreach and overflow of the inter-Trinitarian covenant.' (Rich Lusk) The attraction of this idea is that it validates the desire of FV to define covenant purely in term of natural relationship and love without legal aspects. But this is a false dichotomy, as reflection on one of the favourite analogies of FV will show, that of marriage. It is the legal aspect of a marriage that actually safeguards and defines the relationship of love and trust; the covenant is not the relationship, as FV suggests, but rather the formal instrument through which the relationship exists and flourishes.

All God's covenants in the Bible show legal and formal aspects such as promises, obligations, sacrifices, sacraments, sanctions and oaths. A covenant is a legal relationship that guarantees the relationship itself. So the New Testament speaks of God's covenants being 'founded upon' legal structures such as priesthood and promises (Heb 7:11, 8:6). It is a mistake to reduce covenant to the idea alone of fellowship between two parties because this confuses the goal of the covenant with the covenant itself. In the case of the Godhead it is difficult to see how the idea of biblical covenant could be applied meaningfully to the ontological Trinity in its intra-Personal life, without falling into some form of tri-theism where the Trinity would be reduced to a loving community of three distinct Persons. Simply, covenant is a judicial instrument that the sovereign and all-wise God has selected and employed with which to relate to his human creatures and to redeem them by his grace.

Further, the teaching of the WCF (VII/1) is that there is such a distance between us and God, as creatures and Creator that we could never have any enjoyment of God as our blessedness and reward without an act of "voluntary condescension" on his part, which he has made to us in the form of a covenant. If covenant were internal to the being of God then he would not have had to condescend to it as a special instrument for saving his creatures; instead it would have been there all along. We may conclude by saying that covenant is extrinsic to God but he has made it intrinsic to us as his creatures, both in creation and redemption (Rom 2:14-15, Heb 13:20-21).

2.3 The covenant of works

'We deny that continuance in this covenant in the Garden was in any way a payment for work rendered. Adam could forfeit or demerit the gift of glorification by disobedience, but the gift of continued possession of that gift was not offered by God to Adam conditioned upon Adam's moral exertions or achievements.' (A Joint Federal Vision Profession) Basic to this rejection of a covenant of works is the FV view that the covenant expressed a natural, filial relationship of trust and love between God and Adam. On this view the covenant of works should be seen as one of grace in which God intended Adam to attain maturity, but not to reward him for anything done in obedience to the explicit command of God. 'He was a favoured son awaiting an inheritance, not an employee seeking an earned wage.' (Rich Lusk)

But this is a caricature which fails to reckon with the specific engagement of God with Adam in the Garden (Gen 2:16-17) and after the Fall. Grace does not adequately account for all the biblical evidence and the aftermath in the judgement of Adam, Eve and the whole of creation (Gen 3:14-19), nor the typological reasoning of the New Testament about Adam's act of disobedience being the type of Jesus Christ's active obedience (Rom 5:12-21, 8:19-23). Grace in the Bible is more than God's goodwill, it is his special and unmerited favour to those who have violated his covenant and forfeited any right to his blessings. By so accentuating the gracious nature of the covenant of works FV is in danger of turning it into a covenant of grace, while their later stress on the covenant obedience of the Christian in the real covenant of grace is in danger of turning it into a covenant of works.

Although the term 'covenant' is never used in the biblical narrative in Genesis 1-3 the standard elements of later divine covenants are present here, such as promises, conditions and sanctions. Genesis 2 and 3 indicate that, in addition to being created in the image of God (Gen 1:26-27), Adam was placed under a special command to which was attached a sanction of death for disobedience, along with an implied promise of life for obedience (Gen 2:16-17). Because Adam represented all humanity as covenant head (Rom 5:12-19) his decision to disobey the divine command brought down the guilt of his sinful act, a human nature now corrupted by sin, and the penal sanction of total death, upon the whole human family. As the WCF expresses it, 'The first covenant made with man was a covenant of works, wherein life was promised to Adam; and in him to his posterity, upon condition of perfect and personal obedience. Man, by his fall, having made himself incapable of life by that covenant, the Lord was pleased to make a second, commonly called the covenant of grace; wherein he freely offers to sinners life and salvation by Jesus Christ; requiring of them faith in him, that they may be saved, and promising to give to all those that are ordained to eternal life his Holy Spirit, to make them willing and able to believe.' (VII/2-3) By disowning the covenant of works FV removes the corner-stone of the soteric theology of the WCF.

FV remains largely silent about Genesis 3 where the legal and universal nature of the covenant appears. A tribunal (Calvin) is set up where God acts as Judge by hearing evidence, pronouncing verdicts and invoking the sanctions of the broken covenant towards the creatures, the woman and the man, and the whole creation (Gen 3:11-19). This historic passage provides the redemptive context for the saving work of Jesus Christ when he comes as the promised seed of the woman who will overturn the destructive work of the serpent (Gen 3:15, 1 John 3:8, Rom 16:20). It also provides the foil for Paul's eschatological belief in a restored cosmos through the resurrection of the children of God as the final stage in their redemption through Jesus Christ (Rom 8:18-23). Rejection of a covenant of works at the beginning of creation greatly hinders our understanding and believing acceptance of the saving work of Jesus Christ as the Second Adam (Rom 5:12-21, 1 Cor 15:20-22, 45-49).

2.4 Maturity and merit

FV opposes the idea of merit that it claims is integral to the idea of a covenant of works; instead it wants to champion the idea of human maturity. Having argued for a covenant of a purely natural kind FV moves easily to the idea of maturation as the goal of the covenant. As created Adam was infantile in his knowledge but through a process of testing and covenant faithfulness he would eventually develop into the ideal of glorious humanity that God had in mind for him. But in order to reach this

conclusion FV reverses the order of the trees in the Garden, arguing that by eating from the Tree of Life Adam would have sustained his life before God, and then eventually by eating from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil would have arrived at the final stage of his development in wisdom. The objection of FV to the idea of merit is that it would mean that Man could put God in his debt, and that can never be.

But the biblical narrative suggests a formalising of the filial relationship with God that Adam undoubtedly enjoyed from the beginning (Luke 3:38). The Creator-Judge initiated such an agreement with a specific command, a generous permission and a definite penal sanction (Gen 2:15-17, 3:17-19). Undoubtedly Adam would have gained a new maturity in knowledge and holiness in his relation to God by choosing deliberately to obey the specific command of God, but this was also that in doing so he would proclaim his love for his sovereign Creator-King and so secure the promise of eternal life contained in the covenant.

FV objects to this interpretation on the ground that it gives rise to two ways in which man might gain eternal life, an original one of works and a later one of promise and faith. But the New Testament appears to support this antithesis by setting law and gospel, faith and works, as alternative ways to gain righteousness with God (Matt 19:16-19, Rom 10:5-8, Gal 3:10-14, 4:21-26). The original condition of salvation by works remains in principle though not in possibility due to the loss of that first promise through Adam's disobedience. The law of that first covenant remains in order to make known to us all our inability to fulfil the law of works in order that we may embrace the law of faith in Jesus Christ revealed in the Gospel. The Saviour regains for us the right to the Tree of Life in the new Paradise of God that the first Adam lost to us in the first Eden (Rev 2:6, 22:1-5). We can no longer be saved by works except the works of Jesus Christ, the Lord our Righteousness.

As for merit, apart from the fact that the WCF does not bring merit into the covenant of works, merit is not the same as works the Creator-King might require from man as his servant-son. If God decided to place Adam under conditions, promises and commands of God's own choosing there can be nothing ungracious or objectionable about that. Through this freely chosen arrangement God intended to honour the man by rewarding his work of obedience with eternal life even although that obedience was inherent in the Creator-creature relationship and strictly deserved no such return. On the same principle the Lord has promised to reward the good works of his people in the Day of Christ despite their inherent imperfections (Matt 25:19-23, 1 Cor 4:5, Rev 14:13). The WCF (VII/1) speaks of all God's covenants as acts of 'voluntary condescension' on his part, with a view to man's enjoying God as his 'blessedness and reward'. In a similar way, the Bible presents Christ's resurrection, enthronement and glory as the reward for his incarnation, obedience, and death (Isa 53:11-12, Acts 2:32-33, Phil 2:8-11, Heb 2:9).

2.5 God's covenants

FV holds that all the biblical covenants are the same and reduces their content to one of faith and faithfulness 'The relationship between works and faith is the same in every covenant' (Ralph Smith). Overall, FV reads covenant history in a unilateral way by reducing all the covenants to the simple slogan "trust and obey". And yet the discontinuities between the covenants, no less than their continuities, help us to see the meaning, necessity and greatness of salvation in Jesus the Son of God. In particular, (though this is denied by FV), the Mosaic covenant forcefully reiterates the

principle of obedience that was first enunciated in Adam's covenant. Likewise, the WCF (XIX/1-2) finds a correspondence between the binding law of 'personal, entire, exact and perpetual obedience' in the covenant of works with the moral law, summarised in the Ten Commandments, that was given to Israel as 'a perfect rule of righteousness'. This perfect revelation of the will of God in the Mosaic covenant serves to highlight the plight of human beings under sin and death, due to their failure under the covenant of works (Rom 3:20, 5:20, 7:7, Gal 2:19), and so to prepare the world for the revelation of God's saving righteousness in his Son for all who believe (Rom 1:1-4, 16-17, 3:21-22, 8:3, 10:3-4, Gal 3:22-25).

FV denies that God has ever required perfect righteousness from his people: 'the law did not require perfect obedience. It was designed for sinners, not unfallen creatures. Thus, the basic requirement of the law was covenant loyalty and trust, not sinless perfection.' (Rich Lusk) But this stance contradicts several biblical authorities such as Jesus (Matt 19:16-17), Paul (Gal 3:10), John (1 John 2:1) and James (Jas 2:10-12). So although the human race now lives under the curse of the broken covenant of works the requirement of perfect obedience to our Creator-King still stands, a moral obligation that is written indelibly on every human mind, to which natural conscience bears witness (Rom 2:14-15). For the same reason we believe that the Lord Jesus Christ as the Servant-King of his people was born under this law and did perfectly fulfil it by the perfect obedience and sacrifice of himself (Gal 4:4-5, Phil 2:5-8), and so proved himself to be the promised seed of the woman (Gen 3:15), the second Adam and the true Israel, God's faithful Servant and Son (Rom 5:18-19, WCF VIII/4-5).

Again, just as Adam was banished from the Garden of Eden and Israel exiled from the land of promise so will all those be banished from the presence of the Lord, who have not fulfilled the law of human righteousness (Rom 1:18, 2 Thes 1:8-9). Paul can argue from the Jewish Scriptures that both Jews and Gentiles are all under sin (Rom 3:9-18), and conclude that by the deeds of divine law, generically considered, no flesh can be justified, since this is the message of the law itself (Rom 3:19-20). Although the Mosaic covenant should be understood as a particular historical edition of the covenant of grace it did lend itself to being used as a covenant of works by those who failed to respond in faith to its true goal which was always Jesus Christ and his righteousness (Rom 10:4). The prominence of divine commandment in the Law covenant was intended to highlight the sinfulness of the human heart and human inability to please God. In itself, apart from Christ, the Law was weak and inadequate (Rom 8:3, Gal 3:12, 4:22-26, Heb 7:19, 8:6-7) because it could neither take away the guilt of sin nor change the human heart (Deut 9:6, 29:4, Ezek 36:24-27, 2 Cor 3:12-14, Heb 10:1-4), hence the need to replace it (Jer 31:31-32, Heb 8:7-13). For this reason such texts should be read as more than *ad hominem* arguments that are responding to *misunderstandings and misusings* of the law (so FV); they should be read as timely reflections on the in-built limitations and ambiguities of the law-covenant of Sinai in serving the interests of the better covenant with its better promises and better hope (John 1:17, Gal 3:19-25, Heb 8:6-13).

In practice FV does make some distinctions between the covenants in its tendency to privilege the old covenant over the new, especially in its doctrine of the Christian church, its beliefs and practices. This same bias for the Old Testament helps explain other distinctives of FV such as making the covenant of grace conditional on the covenant faithfulness of the individual, the high status given to water baptism as the source of assurance of salvation, prioritising the corporate nature of salvation over the individual, making the visible covenant rather than God's eternal election the key

to salvation, stressing the historical church over any invisible church made up of elect believers, and obsessing over apostasy from Christian profession along with the curses of the new covenant.

But these emphases reverse the biblical order of things generally where the progression of redemption and revelation move from the outward to the inward, from the visible to the invisible, from the historical to the eschatological, from the earthly to the heavenly as an overriding principle of faith (2 Cor 3:7-4:6, Heb 11:1). The WCF makes the same point in speaking about the Gospel: 'This covenant was differently administered in the time of the law, and in the time of the gospel' (WCF VII/5) when it is administered 'with more simplicity, and less outward glory' with 'more fullness, evidence, and spiritual efficacy, to all nations' (WCF VII/6). Christians do not focus on the things that are seen but the unseen, where Christ is seated at God's right hand (2 Cor 4:17-18, Col 3:1-4).

2.6 The special grace of the Gospel covenant

In spite of repeatedly mentioning the need for covenant faithfulness on the part of members of the church covenant FV fails to highlight the special grace of the Gospel covenant that meets that particular need. Part of the glory of the new covenant is the gift of the Holy Spirit who inscribes God's law of love and righteousness on human hearts, and dwells there Personally as the Sanctifier of his people by transforming them progressively into the image of God's own Son (Rom 8:29-30, 2 Cor 3:17-18). This is essentially the gift of regeneration that Jesus described (John 3:3,5), the prophets of Israel predicted in the age of the Messiah (Ezek 36:25-28, 37:12-14, 24-28) and that the effectual call of the Gospel brings about by uniting the believing soul to Christ in an act of spiritual resurrection (1 Cor 1:9, 2 Thes 2:13-14).

The Gospel therefore gives what the Law could never do – it internalises God's law, democratises knowledge of God, and really forgives sins (Jer 31:31-34, Heb 8:7-13). What the law could not do because it was weak through human sinfulness, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and condemned sin in human nature through making him an offering for sin (Rom 8:2-3), with the result that God's people live and conduct themselves in the Holy Spirit by fulfilling the righteous demands of the law (v 4).

By flattening the covenants of redemptive history FV does not allow the greater power, glory and effectiveness of the Gospel properly to appear, instead giving the impression that the effectiveness of all the covenants ultimately depends on the covenant faithfulness of its human members instead of the covenant faithfulness of the God of the covenant, his only Mediator and the Holy Spirit of promise (John 1:16-17, Eph 1:13-14, 1 Cor 1:8-9, Col 1:9-10, Heb 8:6-7, 13:20-21). God's grace in the covenant of grace is not synergistic (depending on man as much as God) but monergistic (God giving freely what he commands). See WCF XIII.

3. Election

We have seen how FV separates God's election of his people in Christ from before creation (Eph 1:4-5) from the covenant of grace that becomes a reality in the visible church. There are other errors in connection with election to salvation that we should address.

3.1 Are there two elections?

FV distinguishes between decretal election from eternity and covenantal election through being a member in the historical church. The first is unknowable, the second comes with visible church membership. 'We admit we only have a creaturely knowledge of God's decree. We can never, in this life, know with absolute certainty, who the elect are. So we have to make evaluations and declarations in terms of what has been revealed namely the covenant.' (Rich Lusk) But this distinction lacks biblical backing and renders decretal election in practice virtually irrelevant. Clearly God's election in Christ determines the outcome of evangelistic preaching (Acts 13:48, 1 Thes 1:4-5, 2 Thes 2:13-14), a view shared by the WCF where decretal election is the backdrop to its soteriology at every point – VII/3, VIII/5-6, X/1, 3, XI/4, XIV/1, XVII/2. Divine election from eternity grounds the evangelical covenant in its historical outworkings, not the reverse.

Nor do we learn from Scripture itself any criteria by which we might decide which passages refer to the one kind of election and which to the other. Instead the one type of divine election to salvation prevails across the apostolic writings, an election that comes to reality in the covenant of grace so as to make them co-equal (John 6:37, 39, Rom 8:29, 11:5-6, 1 Cor 1:27-29, 2 Thes 2:13-14, Jas 1:18, 1 Pet 1:2, 2 Pet 1:10). Further, since eternal election is largely irrelevant because it is unknowable we may well ask why this doctrine appears so clearly in Scripture and why Christians should go on believing in it at all? This wedge between election and covenant leads to an Arminian interpretation of election as conditional and undermines the sovereignty of the saving grace of God.

3.2 Election is to be known from visible signs

But is a person's election unknowable? FV argues that a person's inclusion in the elect number of God's saved people cannot be known from introspection but only from the visible evidences of it in water baptism, Christian profession, and membership in the visible church. But this direction fails to reckon with a whole book of the New Testament (1 John) that was written in order to give sure knowledge of being born by God (1 John 5:13). John holds up three clear signs of the new birth so that people may be able to say truly, 'I know God' and he is 'my God and Saviour' (1 John 1:6, 2:3-5). See also WCF XVIII.

Elsewhere Scripture calls for self-examination so that people may have sound reasons for claiming Christ's name (Psa 139:23-24, 1 Cor 11:28, 2 Cor 13:5). Not all self-examination has to be morbid as FV argues; there is a right kind of self-examination that is essential if a believer is to grow in grace and knowledge. Separating eternal election in Christ from the historical covenant of grace in favour of sacramental membership in the visible Church, without discriminating between true and false membership, will only lead to churches filled with nominal Christians who know and care nothing of the experience of Christ and his grace.

3.3 Corporate election and individual election

Because the New Testament transfers the description of covenant Israel to the Christian churches (1 Cor 10:1-11, 1 Pet 2:9-10) FV argues that election passages in the New Testament that address and describe the Christian churches should be true for every member indiscriminately just because they belong to the community of faith. Corporate election here overrides individual election and yet is supposed to lead to the knowledge of it. For this reason, it is mistaken for a pastor to try to decide among his congregation who the elect people of God might be. He should indiscriminately

encourage them to believe in their own election and salvation, until and unless they actually apostatise. If individuals are troubled about their own election they should be reminded of their participation in the visible symbols of the Christian church.

But the election passages in the apostolic letters (e.g. Rom 8:28-30, Eph 1:4-5, 2 Tim 1:9-10) express a judgement of charity towards the individual members of those churches, a pastoral practice that FV chooses to deny in favour of a literal and indiscriminate reading of these Scriptures. Holy Scripture does make election (and reprobation) an individual thing as the classic example of Jacob and Esau illustrates (Rom 9:10-13). It is true that the elect are one body in Christ but they are individuals whom the Father chose and Christ has loved (Gal 2:20). There was indeed a corporate election of Israel as a people (Deut 7:7-8) but also a remnant of elect individuals who represented the true people of God who found salvation (Rom 11:1-7). Transferring the covenant promises and privileges of the ancient people to the Christian churches (1 Pet 2:9-10) does not mean that they apply to everyone within those churches in the same way; belonging to a nation by birth does not correspond exactly to being born again into a heavenly kingdom. The New Testament infers eternal election from clear signs in their lives rather than simply from membership in the visible church (1 Thes 1:4-5, 2 Thes 2:13-14, 2 Pet 1:5-10). Further, Scripture does make distinctions among the members of the covenant community (Matt 7:14, 1 John 2:19-20, 1 Pet 5:13). Pastors, like apostles, are to encourage and guide their people to make their call and election sure by every effort (2 Pet 1:5-10).

3.4 Is election losable?

'The elect are those who are faithful in Christ Jesus. If they later reject the Saviour they are no longer elect – they are cut off from the Elect One and thus, lose their elect standing. But their falling away doesn't negate the reality of their standing prior to their apostasy. They were really and truly the elect of God because of their relationship with Christ.' (Steve Wilkins) FV uses Israel as a covenant people to illustrate this point. Israel was chosen by God in the Exodus but then became reprobate at the Exile. FV, in effect, makes God's grace in election conditional on the faithful and sustained response of the individual. This belief runs counter to both the Scriptures and the WCF where God's election to salvation means the certainty of salvation for those so chosen (Rom 8:29-30, 9:23, 11:2-5, Eph 1:4-5, 1 Thes 1:4-5, 2 Thes 2:13-14, 1 Pet 1-2, WCF III/6). The way FV articulates its doctrine of election is closer to an Arminian understanding, despite using reformed categories and terminology in doing so. When all the biblical teaching is brought under review it seems best to say that the visible churches will always include members who are not true believers (Acts 8:18-23), who belong to Christ's Church outwardly but not inwardly (1 John 2:18-19), yet God's purpose of election is secure (2 Tim 2:17-19).

4. Justification

By placing the message of the righteousness of God for believers in Jesus Christ at the forefront of his summary of the Gospel in his letter to the Romans Paul implies that this theme that we call justification leads us into the Gospel as a whole (Rom 1:16-17, 3:21-22) and that it is paramount in the life of the individual and the church.

4.1 Justification is more than forgiveness

Having preferenced relational categories over juridical ones, as in the doctrine of the covenant of works, or (see below) the active obedience of Christ, FV is consistent in limiting justification to being forgiven by God. 'To have righteousness imputed means that sins are forgiven.' (Rich Lusk) But while forgiveness is included in justification it

fails to express the complete blessing that justification gives which concerns our legal standing before God. The Bible's teaching on sin tells us that we are sinners in a double sense - because we constantly fail to live up to God's standards and because we repeatedly breach those standards (Matt 6:12, Rom 2:13, 3:9-19, 23,13:8, Jas 4:17). God's law presents us with God's standards and so all our sin is some form of lawlessness (1 John 3:4). We are both debtors and transgressors in respect of God's law, and it is this dual aspect of sin that Jesus Christ answered for us in his personal obedience even to the death of the Cross. Our debts have been paid in full and our transgressions have been fully obliterated (Rom 4:5-8). Justification is more than the negative blessing of forgiveness; it is also the positive blessing of being accounted righteous, as though we had personally fulfilled all God's commands of love and righteousness (Rom 5:18-19). God does not reckon our sin, he does reckon Christ's righteousness (Rom 4:5-8); he reckoned our sin to Christ, he reckons Christ's righteousness to us (2 Cor 5:19, 21). So the WCF distinguishes in justification two aspects: God's pardoning our sins *and* accounting and accepting our persons as righteous before him (XI/1).

4.2 Justification is completed now

'Final justification is *to the (faithful) doers of the law* (Rom 2:1ff.) and *by those good works which make faith complete* (Jas. 2:14ff). Justification will not be fully realized until the resurrection . . . Final justification is, however, according to works. This pole of justification takes into account the entirety of our lives. God's verdict over us will be in accord with, and therefore in some sense based upon, the life we have lived.' (Rich Lusk) It was the teaching of late Judaism that justification was God's secret until the judgement day, while life on earth was a preparation for it. FV teaches something disturbingly similar when it makes covenant salvation conditional on the life-long faithfulness of the believer in Jesus. While acknowledging the place of faith and a present justification FV yet strongly affirms the eschatological nature of justification. This means that our initial faith needs to be supplemented with a course of faithfulness in works for that justification to be secured in the last day. Our works of faith will have more than evidentiary value at the judgement.

In sharp contrast the New Testament links justification with the death of Christ as its ground and his resurrection as its validation (Rom 4:25, 5:1, 8:31-34). Because of this Paul speaks with absolute certainty about the future judgement for believers (Rom 5:9-10, 8:38-39). Jesus anticipated this future certainty when he already on earth authoritatively forgave and reconciled men and women to God (Matt 9:6, Luke 7:48-50). Justification is the verdict of the last day brought forward into the present, so that the believer in Jesus can be assured here and now of his safety in the last day (Rom 5:9). The judgement of the last day will only make public what is assured and settled now through faith in Jesus Christ the righteous One.

Further, contrary to this reticence about a believer's complete justification now is the glorious resurrection of believers in Christ when he comes again (Phil 3:20-21). But this event will itself already attest to the righteous standing of those who are Christ's since resurrection is God's vindication and acceptance first of Christ and then of his people (1 Cor 15:20-23). Since their glorious resurrection must precede the final judgement the verdict of that judgement will be already known. The intermediate state of believers in Jesus in their going immediately to be with Jesus when they die, in the same way points to a justified standing with God through Jesus before death or final judgement (Luke 16:22, 1 Thes 4:14,16-17, Phil 1:23, see WCF XXXII). From the biblical evidence we can confidently conclude that the justification of believers in Jesus is a judicial verdict of acquittal before God once for all made by God in the

moment of their first believing in Christ, to which the transfigured bodies of believers will give eloquent witness in the Day of Christ's appearing. Full salvation is "not yet" but justification is "now already".

FV confuses being justified by faith alone and being judged according to our works. For the saints being judged according to their works is the same as their being rewarded according to their works (Rom 2:6-11). Our justification is wholly and alone because of the works of obedience, completed in his death, done by Jesus Christ as our Representative before God; our good works, though imperfect and unworthy of any reward because they are always mingled with self-love and sin, will yet be rewarded as though worthy, by God in his grace in Jesus (Matt 25:14-30, 1 Cor 3:14, Rev 11:17-18).

4.3 Justification and sanctification

'Justification is rooted in our entanglement in a perichoretic communion. Christ in us, we in Christ; the Spirit in us, we in the Spirit. It is all one: Christ the righteous in us, we in the righteous Christ . . . When Paul says "Christ lives in me", then too he is talking about Justification.' (Peter Leithart) While it is the case that the Holy Spirit represents Jesus Christ to us as our righteousness it is on the basis of his substitutionary death that he does this (Rom 5:5-10). We ought to differentiate clearly without confusing or separating them what Christ has done *for* us and what he is doing *within* us through the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, we will confuse justification (the external, legal blessing) with sanctification (the internal, transformative blessing).

'Faith never exists on its own, even at its inception . . . Indeed, given that faith is a gift of God, its presence in us is proof that the Spirit has already begun his work of transforming us.' (Rich Lusk) While it is true that the regeneration that takes place in effectual calling is a sovereign act of the Holy Spirit that generates that new life that expresses itself in evangelical believing and repenting (WCF X/2), FV's way of stating this connection is constantly in danger of confusing the forensic with the transformative aspects of salvation. Jesus Christ is the whole cause and source of the righteousness (justification) and holiness (sanctification) of the believer united to him (1 Cor 1:30). We could even say that justification is the legal warrant for sanctification, the legal aspect preceding the moral in the logical ordering of salvation (Rom 8:29-30). Sanctification is always given with justification but never as part of what justification is, nor as prior to it. Otherwise there is the real possibility of falling into a synergistic view in which justification is based in part on what the believer has become *in himself* through grace, instead of being based entirely on what the God of grace has done once for all in Jesus Christ.

4.4 Justification, Union with Christ and imputation

'This justification requires no transfer or imputation of anything. . . Rather because I am in the Righteous One and the Vindicated One, I am righteous and vindicated. My in-Christness makes imputation redundant. I do not need the moral content of his life of righteousness transferred to me; what I need is a share in the forensic verdict passed over him at the resurrection. Union with Christ is therefore the key.' (Rich Lusk)

But several things have changed in this FV rendition of justification. First, the relational experience of union with Christ has taken the place of the judicial blessing of being justified freely though the imputation of Christ's righteousness. The forensic world cannot be merged into the participationist one, however inseparable they may

be. Secondly, transferring justification to the resurrection of Christ as the point where believers find their vindication by God runs into conflict with Paul who tells us that justification took place in Christ's death (Rom 5:9). "In my place condemned he stood / Sealed my pardon with his blood." There is nothing equivalent in Paul's teaching about the resurrection of Christ to what he exclaims about the Cross (Gal 6:14). The death of Jesus is the real trigger for Paul's Gospel. Thirdly, Paul does speak of righteousness being reckoned to the believer in Jesus (Rom 4:5-8), which is what we believe imputation language is saying too. Just as our sins were imputed or debited to Christ, so his righteousness is imputed or credited to those who are united to him (Rom 5:18-19, 2 Cor 5:18-21). Fourthly, being in Christ does not mean to say that we may not distinguish different ways in which the several blessings of union with Christ are mediated to us. There is room in union with Christ for forensic (justifying righteousness) and transformative (heart holiness) categories, in fact union with Christ opens a progression of different blessings from initial enlightenment (wisdom) to bodily resurrection (redemption) (1 Cor 1:30). Fifthly, Christ's resurrection in relation to his death has declaratory power in proclaiming that Christ fully satisfied divine justice when he died (1 Cor 15:12-19, *Larger Catechism* Q/A 52). While it is the Christ who was justified in his resurrection (Rom 4:25, 1 Tim 3:16) whose righteousness is credited to the believer, yet to claim that 'we have the forgiveness of sins in his cross and justification in his resurrection' (Rich Lusk) is misleading because the justifying verdict of Christ's resurrection is grounded in the justice of his obedient life and death.

For all of the above reasons we cannot assent to the view that the inclusion of the Gentiles in the people of God is either the meaning of justification or the main theme of the New Testament. 'It is not grace that is new in the New Testament. It is not faith that is new in the New Testament. It is not justification that is new in the New Testament. What is new is that Gentiles are fully incorporated into Israel by faith alone.' (Steve Schlissel) While it is true that the new covenant is characterised by Gentile inclusion, its greatest glory is found in the Personal incarnation of the Son of God, his life, death and resurrection, along with the coming of the Holy Spirit and the free gift of righteousness in him (2 Cor 3:4-18, Heb 8:6-13). Justification is not a sociological issue but a redemptive one in the deepest sense of the word, a matter of eternal life or death.

5. Faith

Just as FV merges justification with sanctification so FV brings works into faith in the justifying act of the believer.

5.1 *By faith alone*

'Faith alone, faith without works is a theological abstraction that does not exist in the experience of converted sinners.' (Norman Shepherd) This is a man of straw because whenever Paul discusses justification he always refers to faith in opposition to works, that is, faith alone in Jesus Christ (Rom 3:27-28, 4:2-5, 10:3-7, Gal 2:15-16, 3:10-14, 5:2-5, Phil 3:7-9). What FV states here may be true when we consider salvation as a whole, but in justification we receive from God the whole gift of righteousness which is Jesus Christ himself, by faith alone (Rom 3:21-22, Phil 3:9). By constantly qualifying justifying faith in various ways FV actually undermines the sole instrumentality of faith. It is the very nature of faith in the Gospel to receive from God and not to give to God initially (Gal 3:14, 22). This is what we mean when we speak of the fiducial/trusting nature of justifying faith, a faith that rests in and accepts Jesus Christ alone for righteousness. So says the WCF XI/2.

‘The only kind of faith that justifies is a faith that lives – that is to say, a faith that loves, obeys, repents, calls, and seeks.’ (Rich Lusk) The reason why we are justified by faith alone is that in justification what we receive – Christ and his righteousness – is wholly *external* to ourselves. In repentance, good works of obedience or covenant faithfulness, however, we offer something *to* God. The righteousness of faith is such because it is wholly taken up with Jesus Christ the righteous Saviour offering himself to us in the Gospel message. As the case of Abraham shows justification has always been by faith alone in the merciful promise of God in Jesus Christ, the seed of Abraham (Gal 3:16, Heb 11:7). ‘Faith justifies a sinner in the sight of God, not because of those other graces which always accompany it, or of good works which are the fruits of it, nor as if the grace of faith, or any act of it, were imputed to him for his justification; but only as it is an instrument by which he receives and applies Christ and his righteousness.’ (*Larger Catechism* Q/A. 73)

We can all agree that justifying faith is a living and not a dead faith but the real question is, What makes it a living faith? FV answers this by pointing to other qualities such as penitence, love and obedience that faith brings with it. But that is not the answer of classic Reformed theology which appears, for example, in chapter 15 of the *Second Helvetic Confession* (1566). In comparing James with Paul it says: ‘Wherefore, in this matter we are not speaking of a fictitious, empty, lazy, and dead faith, but of a living, quickening faith. It is and is called a living faith because it apprehends Christ who is life and makes alive, and shows that it is alive by living works.’ By opposing the principle of faith alone in justification FV in effect denies that it is by Christ alone, since these are the two faces of the one reality of justification. In adding human qualities into justifying faith, even at its inception, FV comes perilously close to the medieval doctrine of congruent grace with its mixture of grace and works.

5.2 *The obedience of faith*

‘Neither obedience without faith, nor faith without obedience will justify or save.’ (Norman Shepherd) In support of such notions FV likes to appeal to the phrase ‘the obedience of faith’ in Romans 1:5, 16:26 where they take obedience as the substance of faith so that ‘faith is obedience’. However, the phrase ‘of faith’ is best understood as a subjective genitive, as in ‘the righteousness of God’ (Rom 1:17, 3:21) where God is the source of righteousness, or ‘the hope of righteousness’ (Gal 5:5) where hope is what righteousness generates. It is true that we are commanded to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation (Acts 16:31). It is also true that no one is able by themselves to comply with that command (Rom 8:11). However, the covenant of grace promises “to give to all those that are ordained to eternal life his Holy Spirit to make them willing and able to believe” (WCF VII/3). In fact, the little phrase ‘the obedience of faith’ may be understood as summing up the two major themes of the Gospel in Romans 1-8, namely, justification (‘faith’) chapters 1-5, and sanctification (‘obedience’) chapters 5-8, where the latter is the outworking of the former, but distinct from it.

By aligning faith and obedience so closely FV virtually makes them interchangeable, even in the initial justifying act of faith, the implication being that faith is justifying because it obeys. But the reason Paul never qualifies faith in any such way, instead always linking it simply with Jesus Christ (Rom 3:21-22, Phil 3:9), is that any such definition or qualification turns justification into a faith *and* works scheme, in Pauline reckoning. All the blessings of salvation are in Jesus Christ, alone and altogether (Eph 1:3, Col 2:3-4, 9-10). Even 1% of human additive to the completed work of

Jesus Christ threatens that finished work of the covenant Mediator which he has accomplished once for all (Heb 10:14). The Gospel calls us not to rely on our faith in Christ but on Christ himself who covers all our deficiencies and gives us his perfect righteousness instead. Just as Jesus Christ died for the ungodly who were without any strength of their own (Rom 5:6), so God justifies the ungodly who have no righteousness of their own (Rom 4:5). Both are absolute pronouncements regarding the ungodly. Otherwise, God is robbed of his exclusive glory (1 Cor 1:31).

In similar fashion it is said that the faith that saves is 'a faith that includes faithfulness.' (Andrew Sandlin) But although faith can be translated as 'faithfulness' (Gal 5:22) and although faithfulness belongs to the practice of the covenant, Paul's uses of 'faith' in the places where he explains and defends justification by faith have normally been understood as describing the trusting response of the sinner to the free promise of God's mercy in Jesus Christ (Rom 1:16-17, Rom 3:21-22, Gal 2:16). While it is true that Christ's faithfulness in life and death grounds and justifies justification (Rom 3:24-26) it is only by trusting for oneself in that justifying righteousness that the individual believer can gain possession of it. The Gospel of the righteousness of God is equally the Gospel of the righteousness of faith.

The first ecumenical council of the Christian Church (Acts 15) quite properly debated the terms of salvation. Some said it was by faith in Jesus Christ plus human works (vv. 1, 5); the apostles said salvation was by faith alone in the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ alone (vv. 7, 9, 11). The question was decided in favour of the second position. The few requirements that were added (vv. 19-21, 28-29) were not works of the law necessary for salvation but prudential requirements aimed at avoiding needless friction between Jewish and Gentile churches. Justification must be by faith alone because Jesus Christ is the sole ground of justifying righteousness.

5.3 Paul and James

We no doubt arrive at a different conclusion about justification than that of 'faith alone' when we start with James (Jas 2:14-26) over Paul (Rom 4:1-8, Gal 2:15-16, Eph 2:8-9). But since Paul writes most of all the New Testament writers about justification it seems natural to start with him (WCF I/9 – 'where there is a question about the true and full sense of any Scripture [which is not manifold, but one] it must be searched and known by other places that speak more clearly.') Further, FV interprets Paul through James because it assumes that the two authors are using the same vocabulary (faith, justification, and works) in the same way. But this leads to some dangerous conclusions: 'James has in view the same kind of justification as Paul – forensic, soteric justification. . . . he says their persons will *not* be justified by faith alone, but *also* by good works of obedience they have done . . . In other words, in some sense, James is speaking of a justification in which faith and works *combine together* to justify.' (Rich Lusk) On this view Paul and James clearly conflict, with James stating the very opposite of Paul (Jas 2:24). Andrew Sandlin does not see any need to harmonise James and Paul since the Bible is often a rather imprecise Book, and anyway there is no special virtue in being precise in theology.

In response, we should understand that the same key terms (faith, works, and justification) are being used by the two writers to denote different realities because they are writing for different audiences in addressing different problems. Paul was defending justification by faith alone in Jesus Christ for people who imagined that their own works made them righteous before God; James was writing for people who professed faith in Jesus Christ and imagined that they were right with God from this

notional faith but failed to show the natural fruit of true faith in works of love. The faith that James condemns is not the faith that Paul commends, and the works James commends are not the works Paul condemns. The issue for James is a faith that shows itself to be true by good works (Jas 2:18) which is why we can paraphrase verse 24 as: 'You see [then] that a person is [shown to be] justified by what he does and not by [a rational] faith alone.' Both writers can in this way select the same example of Abraham and quote the same verse (Gen 15:6) but take complementary truths from them. So James no more commends human works as the reason for being justified than Paul does.

6. Assurance of Salvation

FV emphasises the objectivity of the covenant in an attempt to save people from a morbid introspection that seeks for signs in the believer himself to show that he is in a state of grace. Instead, people are counselled to look to the outward signs of their membership in the visible Church.

6.1 Infallible assurance

The New Testament proclaims a joyful faith that results from the saving acts of God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, in the economic Trinity (Eph 1:3-14) and the believing acceptance of these works in the mind, heart and conscience of the Christian (Heb 10:19-23). The WCF (XVIII) likewise expects and encourages all believers to attain to an evangelical assurance (XVIII/3), and grounds it in the truth of the promises of salvation, the inward evidences of those graces to which these promises are directed, and the independent witness of the Holy Spirit with the Christian's own spirit. This is a rather different list from the FV one, in not being afraid of mentioning subjective signs and helps to assurance of salvation. This is in line with the general avoidance of experiential categories or arguments in the teachings of FV. But believers do not have to wait until the Judgement Day before being fully assured of their salvation.

This infallible assurance is opposed to the FV claim that we can never know our salvation by using such criteria. 'You cannot know if you were ever sincere. You cannot know if you really meant it when you asked Jesus into your heart. Those questions are unanswerable. Were you really given a new heart? Well, you can't answer that question. God knows. You don't know. What you can know is that you have been baptised and you have the Lord's Supper.' (Steve Wilkins) But this kind of pastoral counsel will only lead to carelessness and presumption in the Christian churches where it is given, while members who are honestly troubled about their spiritual condition will receive no proper comfort and guidance. Further, without a strong theology of regeneration by the Holy Spirit through the outward preaching of the Gospel (effectual call) the mission work of the churches will falter and fail.

6.2 Outward apostates

The Bible gives several examples of individuals who belonged to the ranks of God's people visibly through circumcision or baptism, for example, Esau (Heb 12:16-17) and Simon (Acts 8:13, 20-23), who yet fell away from their faith and so proved to be strangers to God's grace and covenant. By denying the outward/inward distinction when it comes to deciding authentic membership in the community of faith, FV actually hinders true believers from coming to a well-grounded assurance of their salvation. Contrary to the assertion of FV, giving credibility to personal elements in a Christian assurance is not the same as giving way to a doctrine of works righteousness. But speaking of false members of the churches as being 'in Christ'

and 'members' of the covenant in a soteric sense, and attributing genuine Christianity to such persons, on the basis of passages like John 15:2, Hebrews 10:29, is misleading because it implies that a person may be chosen by God for salvation and really be in Christ, and yet lose everything.

6.3 Future grace

In the teaching of FV there is nothing that separates the Christian from eternal damnation except his own perseverance in covenant faithfulness. There is always the possibility of final apostasy from Christ and the blessings of salvation that currently belong to him. This being the case a believer can never be certain of his final salvation until he dies since he can never be sure of his perseverance for as long as he lives. But the covenant of grace promises and provides for the life-long perseverance of the believer in Christ (John 6:44-51), due to the three-fold bond of the covenant in the Father's election, the Son's vicarious atonement, and the Holy Spirit's regeneration and indwelling (WCF XVII/2). By so accentuating the need for covenant faithfulness throughout the course of a person's life FV reads suspiciously like the covenantal nomism that is attributed to Second Temple Judaism. According to the Scriptures believers are being kept by God's power for their future salvation and can confidently praise God for this living hope (1 Pet 1:3-5).

7. Christ's Saving Work

There is a disturbing loss of focus in the writings and pronouncements of FV on the Person and work of Jesus Christ the Mediator of the new covenant. This results from the greater interest of FV in the human side of things in its doctrine of the Church, the Covenant and Baptism. In some respects a higher and clearer Christology would have answered some of FV's discontents.

7.1 Christ's obedient life

FV is opposed to any doctrine of the active obedience of Christ in fulfilling God's commands *for us*. FV accepts the biblical witness to Christ's obedience as the second Adam (Rom 5:18-19, Phil 2:8) but either explains this as vocational and so peculiar to himself as promised Messiah (and so not saving) or as referring to Christ's death only. There are undoubted tensions and ambiguities within the ranks of FV here since members agree, for example, that Christ needed to be personally blameless so as to fulfil the symbolism of sacrificial animals that were offered on Israel's altars and that foreshadowed his death, an obedience that was also necessary to guarantee his resurrection on the other side. Nevertheless, that active obedience of Christ was not saving *in itself*.

It seems ironical that FV on the one hand wants to excise the doctrine of Jesus Christ's active obedience on our behalf while at the same time preaching up the necessity of an active and obedient faith on the part of the Christian. Is this not an unfortunate substitution of anthropology for Christology, that results in the focus of attention being shifted away from Christ and his work to the Christian and his, as though the second was equally or more important than the first? The objectivity of the covenant of grace, as the historical outworking of God's eternal, saving decree is lost in doing so.

7.2 The imputation of Christ's righteousness

In Reformed theology the cumulative obedience of Jesus Christ at the end of his life answers for the disobedience of Adam at the beginning of his (Rom 5:18-19). In the Reformed theology of the WCF the covenant of works, Christ's active obedience and

the imputation of his righteousness to the believer all hang together. The principle underlying this way of reasoning is that righteousness is the fulfilling of the law (Rom 2:13), whether we think of that law as natural or Mosaic. The works of the law (Gal 2:16) are more than the rituals that marked the Jews, such as circumcision and the food laws, because these were part and parcel of the whole law that circumcision obliged a Jew to keep (Gal 5:3, Jas 2:8-11); the works of the law are the works of the moral law that was first given to Adam in the covenant of works, delivered to the Jewish people in the Mosaic covenant and that remains 'a perfect rule of righteousness' (WCF XIX/1-2). This was the law that Christ was born under (Gal 4:4, Heb 10:5-10), obedience to which he learned through suffering (Heb 5:8, Phil 2:8) and the curse of which he bore in his death (Gal 3:13, Deut 27:14-26). His obedience thus has a dual aspect, that of 'doing and suffering' (Robert Rollock). This is Christ's covenant faithfulness that ended climactically at the Cross, and which is the righteousness credited to the believer in Jesus (Rom 4:5, 22-25). It is Jesus' own righteousness, credited fully and freely to the one who is united to him by faith that grounds the believer's standing before God forever (Rom, 1:17, 3:21, 2 Cor 5:21, Phil 3:9). The good news is that the Gospel is the law fulfilled, while the Cross is the summary, reality and symbol of Christ's justifying righteousness. See WCF VIII/3-5.

7.3 Christ's resurrection

'The resurrection is the real centrepiece of the gospel since it is the *new* thing God has done.' (Rich Lusk) At his resurrection Jesus became the first mature man in possession of that humanity that God intended for Adam at the beginning of creation but which he forfeited through his own fault. By union with Christ the believer shares in the maturity of Christ and gains true human wisdom. So, says FV, instead of relying on Christ's active obedience Christians should pay more attention to the soteric meaning of his resurrection (Rom 4:25, 1 Tim 3:16). But in making the resurrection of Jesus Christ rather than his death the real centre piece of the Gospel FV fails to reflect the repeated focus of the apostolic gospel on the Cross of Jesus (1 Cor 1:17-18, 23-25, 2:1, 5:21, Gal 3:1, 13, 6:14).

'The New Testament is clear throughout that what is given to the saints is the Spirit, who comes from the glorified Jesus. It is not Jesus' earthly life and "works and merits" that are transferred to us, but his glorified and resurrected life in the Spirit that is transferred to us.' (James Jordan) But this is a false antithesis between the righteousness of Christ and union with him in his resurrection, as well as failing to reckon with the forensic significance of Christ's resurrection (1 Tim 3:16). The resurrection was the point of Christ's public vindication by which the charges against him in his death were shown to be fraudulent, just as his human judge had declared (Luke 23:22), and the death penalty which he bore for others was reversed (Acts 2:24). The resurrection was declarative of Christ's righteousness and innocence, the verdict on his righteousness made visible on our behalf (Rom 4:25). By union with Christ through faith and the Holy Spirit that verdict becomes ours but its forensic nature is never lost in the mystical union.

As a general observation here we can say that in its soteriology FV prefers participationist categories to judicial ones, or transformative ones to imputation ones. This is because FV began by eliminating moral law/commandment as dispensable for understanding salvation history and Christian experience, and wants to escape from any idea of merit in the way it interprets the covenants and construes salvation. But the overview of biblical teaching is that man was created with the law written on his heart and conscience (Rom 2:14-15), Adam was obliged to obey God's law (Gen

2:16-17), Israel was locked up under law until faith came (Gal 3:23), Christ fulfilled the law for us and endured its curse (Gal 3:13), and the believer has God's law rewritten on his heart through the Holy Spirit (Heb 8:10).

8. Baptism

The problem here is that FV attributes to the rite of water baptism too great efficacy. This emphasis grows out of and is consistent with its high view of the institutional Church as the only Church and the means of grace for salvation.

8.1 The sign and the reality

The nub of the question is the relation between the outward sign and the spiritual reality it signifies. 'Baptism is the work of both water and the Spirit (cf. John 3:5). Water alone is not baptism, it is an empty symbol. Nor is the work of the Spirit apart from the means of water a baptism. The sacrament includes both. Baptism is more than just a sign; it is also the grace signified.' (Rich Lusk) But while the Bible makes a close connection between water and the Holy Spirit's secret work in the heart (Acts 2:38) it nowhere makes the connection absolute as though the sign and saving grace are interchangeable or simultaneous. That the work of the Holy Spirit does not always run concurrently with the act of baptism is illustrated in the case of Simon who despite being baptised was found to be in a state of serious unbelief and hardness (Acts 8:21-23).

Saving faith is always the context for water baptism in the New Testament (Acts 2:41, 8:12-13, 30-39, 9:17-19, 10:44-48, 16:13-15, 29-33, 19:1-5), being produced normally by the preached message and the sovereign working of the Holy Spirit through and with that word of truth in the heart and mind of the hearer (Acts 11:14-15, 16:14, Rom 1:16-17, 10:14). Water baptism then follows faith in the sense of confirming and strengthening what the believer in Jesus has already believed, received and become. This is what the WCF also teaches (WCF XIV/1-2). Baptism is not therefore a converting ordinance but is dependent on and subordinate to the preached Word of Christ through whom alone we can be received into the kingdom of grace and life. In contrast to this FV rarely refers to the preaching of the Word in connection with water baptism, instead giving baptism the leading role.

FV is sceptical of any teaching that draws attention to the fruits of saving faith in a person's life as a way of deciding those who are worthy of the sacrament (1 Cor 11:27-29). 'It is true that when a person is a believer, the external sign does conform with these internal spiritual realities. But what are these realities? Regeneration? Christ is our Regeneration. Redemption? Christ is our Redemption. Forgiveness? Christ is our Forgiveness.' (Douglas Wilson) The problem here is that Jesus Christ as our Representative in salvation is so one-sidedly affirmed that salvation in its objective *and subjective/experiential* aspects is wholly said to be found in him. The result is that those who profess his Name must simply presume that these are true for them despite the lack of visible, conscious evidence. But this can only encourage a faith that consists in a mental assent to the truth of the Christian faith, a faith that stops short of that fiducial self-entrustment to Jesus Christ for righteousness and life that is the heartbeat of biblical religion. Douglas Wilson concedes that the fruit of a person's life proves that he/she is unregenerate; why cannot the same test apply to prove a person regenerate in Christ?

On the assumption of a typology between priestly ordination under the old covenant and water baptism under the new Peter Leithart attributes an objective causal

efficacy to Christian baptism. 'Baptism clothes us as priests and these clothes remake the man.' 'Baptism effects a transition not only in the regard of men but in the "gaze" of God and this makes us "new creation" in the deepest possible sense.' 'Baptism grants a share in the life of salvation.' 'Baptism is necessary for salvation.' But all such statements fail to grasp the distinction made across the New Testament (also the WCF XXVII/2) between the sacramental sign and the reality signified. For example, Paul plays down whatever baptismal ministry he engaged in at Corinth instead recalling with pride and pleasure his persistent ministry of the preached word of the Cross (1 Cor 1:13-17); and in summing up his intensive and extensive ministry at Ephesus over a 3-year period he does not even mention baptism (Acts 20:17-35). People will be eternally condemned because of final unbelief, not because they were never baptised (Mark 16:16).

Even in the case of circumcision, baptism's precursor (Col 2:11-12), the spiritual reality could not be automatically equated with the rite (Rom 2:28-29) because the rite depended on the word of God's promise for its effectiveness (Rom 3:1-2). Circumcision was a sign and seal of a personal faith already present (Rom 4:11). FV in its own way of reasoning turns baptism inside out by prioritising the outward over the inward or/and denying this traditional distinction itself. And in doing so it falls into the Galatian error of requiring the use of a sacramental rite in addition to faith alone in Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Gal 5:2-4, 6:12-16, Acts 15:5-11).

8.2 The WCF and baptismal regeneration

'The Westminster divines viewed baptism as the instrument and occasion of regeneration by the Spirit, of the remission of sins, of ingrafting into Christ (cf. 28.1). The Confession teaches baptismal regeneration.' (Rich Lusk) Actually, the WCF offers a carefully crafted statement about baptism and regeneration, teaching that 'grace and salvation are not so tied to the rite that no person can be regenerated or saved without it, or that all who are baptised are undoubtedly regenerated.' (XXVIII/5) This is fully in keeping with the distinction of Jesus between believing in him and being baptised in his name (Mark 16:15-16) or the way Paul separates the two in his apostolic ministry (1 Cor 1:14-17). The same chapter of the Confession further safeguards the integrity of baptism by warning that the Holy Spirit only confers the grace promised in the sacrament to 'such as that grace belongs to, according to the counsel of God's own will', which is code for the secret and sovereign purpose of God in election to salvation in Christ (Eph 1:4-5). Likewise the WCF claims that 'the efficacy of Baptism is not tied to that moment of time in which it is administered' but is administered by the Holy Spirit 'to such (whether of age or infants) as that grace belongs to, according to the counsel of God's own will, in his appointed time.' (XXVIII/6) These careful qualifications (see also WCF XXVII/3) clearly refute the charge of teaching baptismal regeneration.

8.3 Infant baptism

In particular, FV holds the highest view of the status of baptised covenant children, stating that it is normal for God to give such children faith in the womb. 'God is already in the process of drawing the child to Himself from the moment of conception . . . But the work isn't complete until the child receives the sign of initiation . . . The threshold into union with Christ, new life in the Spirit, and covenant membership in the family of God is actually crossed when the child is baptised.' (Rich Lusk) Likewise Douglas Wilson wants to talk of his baptised infants as already Christians, saints and heirs of the kingdom because for him union with Christ essentially means union with the church on earth through baptism. The revealed Christ is the one we

must be united with and this happens when we are united with his institutionalised Church.

However, the WCF speaks of 'elect infants' (X/3), implying that not all infants may be so, as well as limiting the grace of baptism to those individuals to whom it belongs in the covenant of grace and election. In addition there are the clear biblical examples of Isaac and Ishmael who typologically illustrate the fact that a person may receive the God-appointed rite but totally fail to receive the saving grace intended by the rite (Gen 25:23, Rom 9:10-13). FV explains this by saying that these two boys were inside the covenant in a real sense but that they chose to remove themselves from the saving covenant relationship with God through their own unbelief and disobedience.

But FV makes two errors here, first in presuming that circumcision made the covenant effective through regeneration in every case, and secondly, by elevating the fickle will of the individual over the sovereign good-pleasure of the God of salvation. Far better to say that if Ishmael and Esau were already regenerated then they would have continued infallibly in a lifetime of believing obedience (1 Thes 1:4-6); but by not continuing to improve the meaning of their circumcision through life-long faith and perseverance they gave clear evidence that they had never been regenerated in the first place (Heb 10:35-39, 12:15-17).

9. The Church

Due to its revisionist views of the covenant and of God's grace FV opts for a revised view of the Christian Church in which, unfortunately, ecclesiology threatens to take the place of soteriology.

9.1 The church visible/invisible

Douglas Wilson argues against the pair of terms 'visible/invisible' since the Church of Christ is always a reality in history and on earth; he prefers to speak of the 'earthly/historical' Church simply. This is consistent with the FV commitment to an earthly/historical covenant of grace free from considerations of either an eternal decree of salvation or subjective, existential signs of worthy membership. Instead, the point of interest is in the objective over the subjective, and the historical over the eternal. So, 'Entry into the church is always a soteriological fact for the person who enters.' (Peter Leithart)

But without a visible/invisible distinction in the doctrine of the Church, which the WCF clearly maintains (XXV/1-2), church members will have to presume on their eternal election and saved status in Christ. The place and need of 'credible profession' will also have to be rejected as leading to the kind of morose and useless introspection that FV condemns. The serious danger inherent in the FV view is that instead of coming to God through Jesus Christ and so becoming true members of his Body the Church, individuals will come to God through formal membership in the Church and so presume that they are united to Christ. This is a fundamental reversal of the apostolic order of salvation.

'The question of when a man is "regenerated", or given "saving faith", or "truly converted", are ultimately questions we cannot answer and, therefore, they cannot be the basis upon which we define the Church or identify God's people.' (Steve Wilkins) Yet the Bible in both Testaments (Rom 9:6, Acts 8:13, 20-23, Heb 10:26-31), not to speak of the evidence of church history and pastoral observation, teaches us that the

local church does not always coincide with the Church as the Body of Christ, made up of living believers who are united to him and to one another through him (Eph 4:16, 1 Pet 2:4-5). For this reason the apostles insist in their letters to the churches on high and specific moral principles and standards being maintained as the practice of faith, in the community of believers and the wider world (Rom 6-8, 12-15, 1 Cor 5-6, Gal 5, Col 3, 1 Thes 4, 1 Tim 2-3). Nowhere do the apostles direct converts to the simple fact of their physical presence in the local church as the reason for believing that they are also in God's favour. Instead, their attention is directed to the great heavenly realities which saving faith and hope appropriate and live by (2 Cor 4:16-18, Heb 11:1). A Christian profession must be credible to be real, otherwise formalism and externalism will take over in our churches and worship.

9.2 When Church members apostatise

While religious apostasy has always been a problem for Christian churches FV has created a real dilemma here because of the way that it equates baptised membership in the visible Church with membership in the covenant of grace, being united with Christ and receiving all the blessings of salvation. The assumption is that until and unless a person finally apostatises they can lay claim to all that is said to be true of believers in Christ. So what happens when someone falls away irretrievably? FV argues that such an individual has chosen to renounce the covenant of salvation and the Christ in whom he really possessed eternal life. As a result the curses of the new covenant fall upon that person in this life and the next. Incidentally, FV never addresses the common pastoral experience of church members who never apostatise outwardly but appear never to turn to Christ savingly either. On the FV model pastors should encourage such persons to believe that they have a saving relationship to Christ.

The exegetical basis for these views are supposedly found in passages like John 15:1-8, Hebrews 6:4-6 and 10:26-31, read in such a way that we should conclude that an actual union with Christ has taken place in the case of all the branches in the parable of the Vine and the parties described in the Hebrews passages. But such an interpretation brings these texts into direct conflict with others that affirm the indefectibility of God's grace in his people, the completed nature of Christ's mediatorial work and the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit in true believers. Traditionally, the distinctions made in these passages have been understood as referring to nominal members of the visible churches who have never accepted or appropriated the promises of salvation for themselves. What these people have experienced are the common effects of the Holy Spirit that do not result in regeneration and conversion (Mark 4:16-17). In the Vine parable of Jesus branches are rejected because they *never* bore fruit from the Vine, and in the parable (verses 7-8) in Hebrews 6 the apostates described in the warning passage (verses 4-6) are represented by soil that *only* produces thorns and thistles; there is no hint of salvific realities being experienced or lost by them, in contrast to those who *have* obtained salvation and shown it by works of love (verses 9-12).

These warning passages are part of God's purpose for spurring his chosen people to greater effort in obeying him and for rendering apostates inexcusable for their rejection of the Gospel covenant. Again, Scripture refers to those who in the Day of judgement will be disowned by Christ because although they appeared to belong to him covenantally they were all along unknown to him; there was no living union with him (Matt 7:21-23, 25:41-46, Luke 13:26-27). This invalidates Douglas Wilson's favourite illustration of a marriage to explain the relation of apostates to Christ before

they defected from their faith; it is still a marriage even when adultery takes place, he says. But Jesus' words indicate that the so-called marriage was never consummated because such people never united with him by a living, personal faith. By contrast, the covenant of grace promises God's faithfulness in preserving his people to the end (1 Cor 1:8-9, 1 Thes 5:23-24, Heb 10:23) so that true believers may be persuaded that nothing in time or space, present or future, will ever separate them from God's love for them in Jesus Christ (Rom 8:38-39). See WCF XVII.

10. Conclusions

The committee has found it difficult sometimes to be sure whom or what FV is targeting with its criticisms and objections. Sometimes its targets look like straw men or the views and practices of minority groups within the Christian world. Sometimes FV uses traditional terms (like regeneration) in loose or novel ways. Sometimes the views expressed seem to be more imbalanced than wrong, an over-reaction to bad practice or misunderstandings in other parts of the evangelical and reformed community. Sometimes the arguments advanced and the conclusions put forward are poorly constructed from biblical texts or are assumed in trying to prove them true. But in some of their assertions and claims FV does appear to challenge Biblical and Confessional standards.

In general, FV tends to take the human side of salvation rather than the divine side, it places ecclesial matters like baptism and visible membership ahead of soteriological ones like saving faith and its moral fruits; it makes God's sovereign grace contingent on human decision and perseverance, it wants works added to simple faith in justification, it draws its ecclesiological vision from the old covenant more than the new, it objects to the active obedience of Jesus Christ but insists on the active obedience of the Christian. Such clear tendencies in FV are evidence of a skewed vision both of biblical and Reformed theology which, if left unchecked, will lead in time to Roman Catholic synergism, Arminian soteriology, Church sacramentalism, presumptive regeneration of covenant infants, formalism in worship and nominalism in Christian profession. Paul's principle still stands that a little leaven can corrupt the whole lump (Gal 5:8-9).

For the above reasons, particularly because of its recasting of covenant theology and the biblical teaching on faith and justification, the committee has come to the view that the soteriology of the FV is incompatible with the system of doctrine taught in the Westminster Confession of Faith, and that the Declaratory Statement grants no liberty of opinion on those matters since they are integral to the doctrine of the Confession. We believe therefore that the soteriology of FV does strike at the heart of the Gospel of the grace of God in Jesus Christ.

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AD HOC COMMITTEE SITES RESERVE FUND (Min. 12)

The Committee has been instructed by the 2011 General Assembly, min 91.5, which directed it to:

“explore ways and means of achieving more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.”

Early in our discussions it became apparent that within the Church there was lack of clarity regarding not only the purpose of the Sites Reserve Fund but also, at the more fundamental level, regarding how Presbyterian property is held in the first place. The primary question being: “On what basis is any Church property held? The end-point question: “How can we use Sites Reserve funds more effectively?” And, of course, there’s the intermediate question: “What is the basis for holding Sites Reserve funds?”

Clearly, the way in which we answer the more fundamental question will direct our thinking towards answering the subsequent questions.

27 July 2012

At a meeting of the Sites Reserve Committee a sub-committee of seven was appointed to:

- a) prepare a declarative statement regarding the primary question – a statement that would be useful for the Church in understanding how property is held; and
- b) prepare a statement which addresses the subsequent questions regarding Sites Reserve funds.

19 October 2012

Both of these statements were prepared.

Without approving or disapproving the statements, a second meeting of the sub-committee agreed to seek the advice of Legal Counsel regarding the accuracy of our draft declarative statements regarding how Presbyterian property is held and what is the nature of Sites Reserve funds.

For various reasons, it took some time to prepare the Brief for Counsel, and this was finalised and sent on 2 May 2013.

The Brief prepared for Counsel centred on four key questions put to him:

1. Is the Declarative Statement – “How Presbyterian Church property is held” an accurate reflection of the way church property should be considered to be held by the denomination?
2. Does the Model Trust Deed place any constraints on how the proceeds of the sale of property may be applied? If so, do the terms of the constraints vary depending on which type of property is sold (church site or manse site)?
3. Is the Declarative Statement – “The Purpose for Sites Reserve funds” consistent with the legal documents and a reasonable implementation of them?
4. Are the current Sites Reserve regulations (BIF regs 9 and 10) consistent with the legal documents and a reasonable implementation of them?

Our Law Agent, in preparing the Brief, painted a picture of the context in which these questions were being put – a context in which there is widespread misunderstanding of the concept of “ownership” within the church.

Counsel's *Opinion*, and then a *Declarative Statement*, were received in October 2013.

4 December 2013

The Sites Reserve Committee met and discussed the documents received from Counsel Michael Shand QC. A new sub-committee of three persons was appointed to receive submissions from members of the committee, and then to prepare a proposal for the Sites Reserve Committee to present to the Commission of Assembly.

27 February 2014

The sub-committee (appointed 4 Dec 2013) met and reviewed six submissions (one from outside the committee).

24 March 2014

The Sites Reserve Committee met to consider the responses and to draw a conclusion.

Our initial response:

- We thanked members for their responses, and for their thoroughness and thoughtfulness.
- We noted that the submissions received did not address the \$17 million accumulated funds in Sites Reserve and how we might *explore ways and means of achieving more effective use of Sites Reserve funds for the Presbyterian Church of Victoria*

Conclusion:

During the course of our discussion it became clear that we need to adopt the legal documents first and then use them as a foundation so that we can move ahead with our original instruction. It is our belief that the Michael Shand *Opinion* and also his *Declarative Statement* constitute such firm footing. They are statements based on the vast experience of a senior man of law, all the documentary evidence placed before him and our Brief.

We therefore put forward the proposals contained in the Deliverance that, we hope, will provide us with a clear platform from which to proceed.

Andrew Bray
CONVENER

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Min. 9)

1. Distribution of the General Mission Program

1.1 Introduction

In introducing its report, the Committee again wishes to emphasise that the total of the General Mission Program (GMP) which it recommends to the Commission, and thus the amount allocated to each presbytery, should be seen as the **minimum** amounts required by the benefiting Committees of the General Assembly to perform their respective purposes. Parishes therefore are encouraged to subscribe more to the GMP, as some have done, where their circumstances permit or special efforts provide.

1.2 Current Year 2013/14

At the May 2013 Commission of the General Assembly, the amount of \$207,153 was approved as the total of the GMP allocated to presbyteries for the financial year 2013/14. To the end of February 2014 approximately 84% of the total has been received compared to 79% to February 2013 against a total GMP of \$210,765.

1.3 Year 2014/15

After considering the applications and budgets put forward in the submissions of the Assembly Committees, the Committee is recommending a total amount of \$162,844 for the financial year 2014/15, which is significantly less than in 2013/14. This is the result of a combination of factors including: State News has submitted a balanced budget without making a request for GMP support, the TEC has reduced its request for GMP to fund the training officer by half compared to the previous year, the funding for the Property Development Fund has been removed.

As reported to the Assembly last October the committee has reviewed the allocation to the Property Development Fund. While the GMP committee is supportive of the objectives of the Property Development Fund, its view is that it does not consider GMP the best way to fund this. The contribution from GMP to the Property Development is small and relatively insignificant in relation to the funds required to purchase and develop property. It does not seem sensible to the committee to increase the burden on presbyteries and ultimately congregations many of which are struggling in order to provide what is effectively token funding for this purpose. Therefore the committee has not included funding of the Property Development Fund in its recommendation to the Commission.

The enterprises outside the church included for support are the same as the previous year and the allocations have generally been increased to allow for CPI. The funding allocation to Presbyterian Inland Mission has not been indexed over recent years and remained constant at \$5,000 so has been adjusted up to \$6,000 this year.

The resulting net total of the General Mission Program for 2014/15 is \$162,844 distributed as follows, with the 2013/14 amounts shown for comparison:

	2013/14 \$	2014/15 \$
ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES:		
Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic.)	47,000	40,000
State News	5,000	0
Theological Education – for Bursary Fund	61,506	62,388
Theological Education (one third actual expenditure: Training Officer)	32,887	16,556
SUB-TOTAL: ASSEMBLY COMMITTEES	146,393	118,944
INTERDENOMINATIONAL ENTERPRISES:		
Australian Christian Lobby	11,100	11,400
ACCESS Ministries	24,800	25,400
Council for Chaplains in Tertiary Institutions	500	500
Victorian Council of Churches: Displan	560	600
SUB-TOTAL: INTERDENOMINATIONAL	36,960	37,900
OTHER GRANTS:		
Presbyterian Inland Mission	5,000	6,000
SUB-TOTAL: OTHER GRANTS	5,000	6,000
TOTAL	191,565	162,844
LEVY 10%:		
Property Development Fund	18,800	0
GRAND TOTAL	207,153	162,844

2 Allocation of the General Mission Program to Presbyteries

2.1 Formula.

The 2012 Commission of Assembly approved the formula for the allocation to presbyteries of the total of the General Mission Program until further recommendation is brought from the committee as follows:

the total GMP to be apportioned according to the number of communicant and adherent members in the respective presbyteries as published in the most recent report to the General Assembly after applying an equalisation factor of 0.6 for presbyteries in country areas to take account of the different situation faced in those areas.

The committee does not see any reason to vary the formula.

2.2 Allocation of GMP for Financial Year 2014/15.

In accordance with the approved formula, it is recommended that the net General Mission Program for 2014/15, i.e. \$162,844, be allocated as follows:

PRESBYTERY	Percentage of LY total	Percentage of total	2014/15 \$
Ballarat	4.42%	4.27%	6,948
Benalla	5.84%	5.61%	9,136
Flinders	14.40%	13.35%	21,740
Geelong	3.97%	4.00%	6,513
Gippsland	4.37%	4.30%	7,000
Kilnoorat	7.02%	6.77%	11,029
Maroondah	8.88%	6.86%	11,174
Melbourne East	19.26%	20.03%	32,624
Melbourne North	10.56%	14.95%	24,345
Melbourne West	17.96%	16.66%	27,124
North Western Victoria	3.33%	3.20%	5,211
TOTAL	100.00%	100.00%	162,844

While the formula remains unchanged, the relative percentages applied to presbyteries has changed significantly in some cases. Most notably, the number of communicants and adherents in Melbourne North increased by 42% year on year while the numbers in Maroondah declined by 28%. Numbers in other presbyteries varied by up to 8% (up or down). These variations are reflected in the percentages in the table above compared to the previous year. This will obviously impact on the dollar amount allocated to each presbytery.

Norm Sharp
CONVENER

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2013/2014
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2013/14	Received for 2013/14	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2013/14	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2013/14 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,156						
Ararat	572	572	0		572	0	100.0%
Ballarat North/Mt Prospect/Smeaton	1,442	0	0		0	1,442	0.0%
Ballarat South	1,579	0	0		0	1,579	0.0%
Ballarat West/Lexton	1,694	1,694	0		1,694	0	100.0%
Carisbrook/Castlemaine	1,030	1,030	0		1,030	0	100.0%
Daylesford	252	252	0		252	0	100.0%
Horsham/Marnoo	733	733	0		733	0	100.0%
Kaniva/Nhill	1,030	1,030	0		1,030	0	100.0%
Skipton/Lismore	824	824	0		824	0	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,156	6,135	0	0	6,135	3,021	67.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						33.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF BENALLA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	12,090						
Benalla	3,021	3,021	0		3,021		100.0%
Broadford	551	551	0		551		100.0%
Numurkah	1,406	0	0		0	1,406	0.0%
Seymour/Nagambie/Yea	975	975	0		975		100.0%
Shepparton/Stanhope/Kyabram	1,406	1,406	0		1,406		100.0%
Tatura	2,318	2,318	0		2,318		100.0%
Wangaratta/Yarrawonga/Myrtleford	1,634	1,634	0		1,634		100.0%
Wodonga	779		0			779	0.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	12,090	9,905	0		9,905	2,185	81.9%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0	
PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	29,821						
Aspendale	1,425	1,425	0		1,425	0	100.0%
Brighton	1,320	1,320	0		1,320	0	100.0%
Cheltenham	3,083	1,083	0		1,083	2,000	35.1%
Clarinda	905	0	0		0	905	0.0%
Clayton	5,718	5,718	0		5,718	0	100.0%
Cranbourne	2,235	2,235	0		2,235	0	100.0%
Cardinia/Koo-Wee-Rup	302	302	0		302	0	100.0%
Dandenong	1,148	1,148	0		1,148	0	100.0%
Dromana/Mornington	1,850	1,850	0		1,850	0	100.0%
Frankston	2,950	2,950	0		2,950	0	100.0%
Mordialloc	1,662	1,662	0		1,662	0	100.0%
Somerville	1,509	1,509	0		1,509	0	100.0%
Sorrento/Rye	4,277	4,277	0		4,277	0	100.0%
SE Samoan	1,437	1,437	0		1,437	0	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	29,821	26,916	0	0	26,916	2,905	90.3%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						9.7%	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2013/2014
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2013/14	Received for 2013/14	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2013/14	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2013/14 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	8,229						
Colac	1,358	1,358	0		1,358	0	100.0%
Geelong - St George's	757	757	0		757	0	100.0%
Geelong North	1,415	1,415	0		1,415	0	100.0%
Geelong West	1,761	1,761	0		1,761	0	100.0%
Moorabool	1,588	1,588	0		1,588	0	100.0%
The Leigh	1,350	1,350	0		1,350	0	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	8,229	8,229	0	0	8,229	0	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,045						
Bairnsdale	1,194	1,194	0		1,194	0	100.0%
Drouin	4,523	4,523	0		4,523	0	100.0%
Leongatha	371	371	0		371	0	100.0%
Moe/Yarram	1,555	1,555	0		1,555	0	100.0%
Morwell	1,275	1,275	0		1,275	0	100.0%
Sale	127	127	0		127	0	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,045	9,045	0	0	9,045	0	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF KILNOORAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	14,539						
Camperdown/Terang	1,040	1,040	0		1,040	0	100.0%
Hamilton	2,545	2,545	0		2,545	0	100.0%
Heywood/Portland	1,300	600	0		600	700	46.2%
Koroit/Port Fairy	1,510	1,510	0		1,510	0	100.0%
Noorat	1,300	1,300	0		1,300	0	100.0%
Warrnambool	6,844	5,133	0		5,133	1,711	75.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	14,539	12,128	0	0	12,128	2,411	83.4%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						16.6%	
PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	18,385						
Belgrave Heights	991	991	0		991	0	100.0%
Blackburn	923	1,000	77		1,000	0	108.3%
Croydon Hills	2,311	2,311	0		2,311	0	100.0%
Donvale	8,746	8,746	0		8,746	0	100.0%
Heathmont	1,221	1,221	0		1,221	0	100.0%
Kirkbrae	100	100	0		100	0	100.0%
Mt Evelyn	1,451	1,451	0		1,451	0	100.0%
Warburton	991	991	0		991	0	100.0%
Woori Yallock	1,651	1,650	0		1,650	1	99.9%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	18,385	18,461	77	0	18,461	1	100.4%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2013/2014
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2013/14	Received for 2013/14	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2013/14	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2013/14 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	39,895						
Arabic	1,237		0		0	1,237	0.0%
Ashburton	1,704	1,704	0		1,704	0	100.0%
Auburn	1,808	1,808	0		1,808	0	100.0%
Burwood Community	2,561	2,561	0		2,561	0	100.0%
Camberwell	7,899	3,106	0		3,106	4,793	39.3%
Canterbury	4,030	4,030	0		4,030	0	100.0%
Caulfield/Elwood	3,510		0		0	3,510	0.0%
Gardenvale East	398	398	0		398	0	100.0%
Hawthorn	2,040	2,040	0		2,040	0	100.0%
Korean, Balwyn	2,358		0		0	2,358	0.0%
Malvern	3,450	3,450	0		3,450	0	100.0%
South Yarra	4,109	4,109	0		4,109	0	100.0%
St Kilda / Balaclava	1,750	5,000	3,250		5,000	0	285.7%
Surrey Hills	3,041	3,041	0		3,041	0	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	39,895	31,247	3,250	0	31,247	11,898	78.3%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							29.8%
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	21,877						
Bundoora	3,570	3,570	0		3,570	0	100.0%
Eltham	3,197	3,197	0		3,197	0	100.0%
Epping	2,118	2,118	0		2,118	0	100.0%
Heidelberg	1,763	1,763	0		1,763	0	100.0%
Hume	629	0	0		0	629	0.0%
Kangaroo Ground	2,305	2,305	0		2,305	0	100.0%
Reservoir	2,389	2,389	0		2,389	0	100.0%
Samoan, Fawkner	2,586	2,586	0		2,586	0	100.0%
Valley	921	921	0		921	0	100.0%
Westminster Community Tem'towe	474	474	0		474	0	100.0%
Whittlesea/Mernda	1,925	1,925	0		1,925	0	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	21,877	21,248	0	0	21,248	629	97.1%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							2.9%
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	37,211						
Brimbank	973		0		0	973	0.0%
Clifton Hill	1,035	1,035	0		1,035	0	100.0%
Essendon	2,073	2,073	0		2,073	0	100.0%
Gisborne	1,379	1,379	0		1,379	0	100.0%
Melbourne, Scots/Flemington	20,831	20,831	0		20,831	0	100.0%
Melton	2,213	2,213	0		2,213	0	100.0%
Point Cook	204	204	0		204	0	100.0%
Sunshine	2,725	2,725	0		2,725	0	100.0%
West Footscray	1,486	1,114	0		1,114	372	75.0%
Williamstown	2,400	2,400	0		2,400	0	100.0%
Wyndham	1,892	1,892	0		1,892	0	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	37,211	35,866	0	0	35,866	1,345	96.4%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid							3.6%

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2013/2014
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2013/14	Received for 2013/14	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2013/14	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2013/14 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	6,955						
Bendigo	2,177	2,177	0		2,177	0	100.0%
Eaglehawk	1,037	1,037	0		1,037	0	100.0%
Kerang/Pyramid Hill	1,342	1,342	0		1,342	0	100.0%
Rochester	1,465	1,465	0		1,465	0	100.0%
Sunraysia	399	399	0		399	0	100.0%
Swan Hill	535	535	0		535	0	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	6,955	6,955	0	0	6,955	0	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	

SUMMARY

Total Allocated to Presbyteries	207,153						
BALLARAT	9,156	6,135	0	0	6,135	3,021	67.0%
BENALLA	12,090	9,905	0	0	9,905	2,185	81.9%
FLINDERS	29,821	26,916	0	0	26,916	2,905	90.3%
GEELONG	8,229	8,229	0	0	8,229	0	100.0%
GIPPSLAND	9,045	9,045	0	0	9,045	0	100.0%
KILNOORAT	14,539	12,128	0	0	12,128	2,411	83.4%
MAROONDAH	18,385	18,461	77	0	18,461	1	100.4%
MELBOURNE EAST	39,895	31,247	3,250	0	31,247	11,898	78.3%
MELBOURNE NORTH	21,877	21,248	0	0	21,248	629	97.1%
MELBOURNE WEST	37,211	35,866	0	0	35,866	1,345	96.4%
NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA	6,955	6,955	0	0	6,955	0	100.0%
unallocated	-50						
TOTALS	207,203	186,135	3,327	0	186,135	24,395	89.8%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						11.8%	

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min. 10)

The Committee reports the following matters to the Commission of Assembly 2014:

1. Committee

Your Committee continued meetings in Ballarat following the October 2013 General Assembly and notes the following changes of membership;

- Rev Dr John Woodward retired in February 2014 from the Committee as Convener and member after three years of diligent service. A motion of appreciation was carried in thanksgiving for John's work and his wife Mary's service as our Secretary.
- Mr Reg Butcher continues as our Registrar. Annual Parish Reports should be transmitted to him in the first instance.
- The October Assembly appointed Dennis Wright as a new member and continuing members are Keith Allen, Mark Crabb and Robert Taylor.
- Dennis Wright became our Convener at our February 2014 meeting.

Your Committee has met regularly throughout the year.

2. Declaration of Terms of Settlement

Again your committee notes that there are many parishes who are yet to submit Annual Parish Reports at 21st March 2014. In order to have terms of settlement declared, you are reminded that the last date for lodgment is 28 February and we continue to remind presbyteries to be more vigilant in following up outstanding returns and in checking their accuracy.

3. Annual Parish Reports

It is also noted that approval of grants and subsidies is dependent upon the lodgment of Annual Parish Reports, which is a requirement for all parishes, Appointment Parishes and Home Mission Stations. The overall quality of figures presented is improving slowly and some confusion still occurs with federal parishes. We note that there is still some difficulty in the presentation and verification of budget figures. We urge all presbyteries to be more pro-active and rigorous in the collection and assessment of Annual Parish Reports, and again ask that presbyteries appoint a registrar/committee whose task is to facilitate this. Your Committee recognizes that many parishes do not have suitably qualified treasurers and administrators and require assistance from the presbytery and this Committee. We are continuing to endeavor to produce a more user friendly form in paper and electronic form. Our Moderator, Rev David Palmer, in his kindness and concern, has done some work and made some proposals relating to the timing of the preparation and submission of all APRs and related matters, which your Committee is working through with its own strategies and hopes to report to you concerning these proposals in the near future.

4. Long Service Leave

In recommending the continuance of the Long Service Leave levy at \$350 per parish per minister per annum, your Committee notes that some presbyteries have not given enough consideration to Ministers' Long Service Leave dates and have been found lacking in forwarding current details to this Committee.

5. Non Cash Benefits

Your Committee reminds Assembly that, even though the current Federal Government intends to take no action on the Non Cash Benefits exemption and

Charitable definition of Churches, we should appreciate these benefits and adhere to the spirit of the laws of the land that allows us these concessions.

6. Superannuation

Your Committee recommends that the rate of superannuation remains at 15% of actual remuneration as previously set.

7. Ministers' Remuneration

Your Committee submits the following to the Assembly:

An increase of 2.75% of base stipend (not including NCB) bringing total base remuneration up to \$50,532, with NCB balancing:

STIPEND: \$33,072.00	NCB: \$17,460.00	TOTAL: \$50,532.00
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8. Fuel Prices

Whilst there are long term positive effects for oil prices in Australia, we note that fuel costs increased by some 3%+ over the past 6 months, and we recommend an increase in excess travel from 48 cents to 49 cents per kilometre.

9. Supply Preaching Fees

In accordance with the above we recommend

- Supply preaching fees increase by approximately 5%
- Travel reimbursement for supply preachers be 49 cents per kilometre

Our grateful thanks go to the PCV General Manager and the office staff for all their assistance given to the Convener and the Committee.

Dennis K Wright
CONVENER

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (Min. 13)

Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes site development – emergent matter

Property development

The Social Services Committee has worked with Kirkbrae management to develop the site to enhance accommodation for independent residents and staff and to establish infrastructure for future stages of development.

Previously the plans for the building of 12 units, Administration Block and Maintenance Building were approved by the General Assembly. Since that time variations to the design, location and the quantity of residential units (reduced to 8 units) have occurred to meet council and local authority requirements.

Once approvals have been received the Social Services Committee will make available plans, specifications and cost estimates to the Trusts Corporation, Board of Investment and Finance and the Law Agent.

It is anticipated that the committee will proceed with the development by calling for tenders from building companies in early July and hopefully commence construction in September 2014.

The Project comes with the support of the Trusts Corporation – Board of Investment and Finance.

Robert Lowe
Convener

PETITION 1 FROM: PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND

RE: ORDINATION OF GARY WENTWORTH (Min. 14)

To the Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

1. Licentiate Mr Gary Wentworth is presently ministering at Leongatha Home Mission Station since his Exit Appointment commenced 1 Feb 2013 on a 50% basis.
2. The Session of Leongatha Home Mission Station requested that the Presbytery of Gippsland consider the ordination of Mr Wentworth to affirm the following:
 - a. Faithfulness in ministry (preaching and pastoral care) since the beginning of his appointment;
 - b. Initiation of new ministries and the re-establishment of Bible studies and prayer meetings as part of the Leongatha congregational life;
 - c. Creating a greater sense of community among the small number of regular worshippers at Leongatha.
3. The Presbytery of Gippsland has expressed its satisfaction with the ministry Mr Wentworth has conducted to date and sees no impediment to his ordination.
4. The Presbytery of Gippsland has reappointed Mr Wentworth for a further twelve months as a confirmation of his ministry at Leongatha.
5. The normal path to ordination for a licentiate is through appointment to an appointment parish, or through a call. With the request of the Presbytery of Flinders to this Assembly last year, the Presbytery of Gippsland has hesitated in upgrading Leongatha to an Appointment parish to facilitate an ordination according to 4A:52.
6. There is no provision in the Code for a Presbytery to ordain Mr Wentworth to a Home Mission Station.
7. Mr Wentworth is currently serving as a chaplain through ACCESS Ministries in the Bayles Primary School. This appointment is not quite at the 50% required for ordination under rule 4A:53.
8. The Ministry Development Committee has indicated the availability of funding for Mr Wentworth's appointment to carry through to the end of 2015.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Gippsland humbly petitions the Commission of the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and,

1. Authorise the Presbytery of Gippsland to ordain Mr Gary Wentworth to the ministry of Word and Sacraments as he continues ministry in the Leongatha parish, and
2. Grant Mr Gary Wentworth a seat on the Presbytery of Gippsland following his ordination.

Or to do otherwise in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Rev Mark Smith and Rev Cameron Garrett were appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 2 FROM: PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT

RE: REV H PRICE SEAT ON PRESBYTERY AND ASSEMBLY (Min. 15)

To the Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

1. the Presbytery of Ballarat resolved at its meeting Feb 11th 2014 to petition the Commission of Assembly as a matter of urgent business to give the Rev Hugh Price a seat on Presbytery and Assembly;
2. the Rev Hugh Price is a minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, having been ordained in 1991 and having served in Victoria and as a missionary in Japan;
3. the Presbytery appointed Rev Hugh Price to Carisbrook/Castlemaine Home Mission Station for a period of 12 months from 1/8/2013, on a 0.8 basis, on the understanding that he would be moving toward mission work within that period;
4. Rev Hugh Prices's personal circumstances have changed since the date of the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria in 2013 allowing him to remain in his appointment for an indefinite period of time;
5. i) Presbytery consists of 7 charges and 2 Home Mission Stations which are currently served by 5 ministers and 2 active retired ministers;
ii) Presbytery membership may be reduced by 3 ministers in the near future;
6. Presbytery is concerned at the impending load on its remaining ministerial members including its ability to provide moderators for the home mission stations and interim moderators for the pending vacant charges and appointment parishes;
7. being aware of the present and impending shortage of ministerial members, Presbytery sees the great need of having the Rev Hugh Price as a member of the presbytery where he could relieve the responsibilities of other ministerial presbytery members who are currently overburdened;
8. because of the adverse circumstances currently occurring within its bounds, Presbytery brings this petition to the Commission of Assembly as a matter of urgency arising since the Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria 2013.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Ballarat humbly petitions the Commission of the General Assembly as a matter of urgency to take these premises into consideration and grant the Rev Hugh Price a seat on the Presbytery and Assembly so long as Rev Hugh Price remains the Home Missionary of Carisbrook-Castlemaine, or to do otherwise in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Rev Ian Hutton and Mr Norm Sharp were appointed to present the petition.

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
OF VICTORIA
OCTOBER 2014**

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
1st Sederunt: Monday 6 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, Monday 6 October 2014 at 7.30pm.

1. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met by appointment of the last Assembly (BB 2013 min. 136). The Moderator Rt Rev David Palmer constituted the Assembly with prayer.

2. Roll

The Clerk laid on the table the certified rolls of presbyteries and the Roll of Assembly compiled from them and moved that it be given interim authority and be submitted for confirmation at the 2nd sederunt.

The motion was seconded and approved.

3. Apologies

The Clerk noted the apologies as follows:

Ministers:

For all sederunts: Keith Allen, Robert Boan, Graham Bradbeer, Ian Brown, Felix Chung, John Cromarty, Rob Duncanson, Kyung Ee, Wally Gear, Neil Harvey, Ian Johnstone, Peter Locke, Paul Ridgewell, Frank Savage, Phil Simmonds, John Sutherland, Peter Swinn, Michael Wharton.

For this sederunt: David Assender, Ivan Barker, Brian Harvey, Peter Hastie, Grant Lawry, Phil Mercer, Peter Orchard, Peter Roberts, Gary Stephens, Andrew Venn.

Elders:

For all sederunts: Peter Anderson, Karl Hood, Ralph Kop, Peter Winstanley, Mervyn York.

For this sederunt: Elizabeth Cutler, Tom Fleming.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

4. Assembly Papers

The Clerk laid on the table Assembly Paper 2, and Assembly Paper B, together with the agenda for the 2nd sederunt.

5. Election of Moderator

The Clerk intimated that Rev David Alfred Robert Brown, minister of Pioneers Presbyterian Church, Cheltenham, had been elected as Moderator-Designate of this General Assembly by the Commission of Assembly in May 2014 (min. 6).

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint Rev David Alfred Robert Brown, minister of Pioneers Presbyterian Church, Cheltenham, as Moderator of the 2014 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator put the moderatorial questions to Mr Brown, inducted him into his office with prayer, and, together with the past moderators, gave him the right hand of fellowship.

The Moderator signed the Assembly Bible, which has been signed by every Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria since its formation in 1859.

The Moderator addressed the Assembly.

6. Worship

The Moderator, Rt Rev David Brown, conducted public worship, and preached the occasional sermon, "All Things Are Possible With God", based on Mark 10:17-27.

7. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Tuesday 7 October 2014 in The Scots' Church Melbourne and thereafter in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street Melbourne, which having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
2nd Sederunt: Tuesday 7 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and within The Scots' Church, and afterwards in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Tuesday 7 October 2014 at 9.30am.

8. Communion Service and Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rt Rev David Brown, constituted the Assembly with prayer, led Assembly in worship and conducted the Lord's Supper. Rt Rev David Cook, Moderator of the General Assembly of Australia, led the Assembly in the first of his Assembly expositions, "A Great Tonic".

9. Roll

Following amendment, the Clerk laid on the table the certified rolls of presbyteries and the Roll of Assembly compiled from them, and moved that it be declared to be the Roll of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

10. Apologies

The Clerk noted the apologies as follows:

Ministers:

For this sederunt: Dallas Clarnette, Philip Court, Phil Daffy, Grant Lawry, Darren Middleton.

Elders:

For this sederunt: Tom Fleming, John Singleton.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

11. Associations

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Associate the following for all sederunts:

1. Rev David Currie, minister of the Church of Scotland and assistant minister at The Scots' Church Melbourne.
2. Rev Kevin Murray, member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales.
3. Rt Rev David Cook, member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales.
4. Very Rev Robert Benn, member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales.

The motion was seconded and approved.

12. Business Committee

The report of the Business Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Determine that the hours of meeting be:

First Sederunt	Monday 6 October, 7.30pm
Second Sederunt	Tuesday 7 October, 9.30am to 5.30pm
Third Sederunt	Tuesday 7 October, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Fourth Sederunt	Wednesday 8 October, 9.30am to 5.30pm
Fifth Sederunt	Wednesday 8 October, 7.00pm to 9.00pm
Sixth Sederunt	Thursday 9 October, 9.30am to the finish of business
 2. Determine that lunch be taken daily from 12.30pm to 2.00pm, that refreshments be taken daily from 3.30pm to 3.50pm, and that a dinner break be taken on Thursday from 5.30pm to 6.30pm, as necessary.
 3. Determine the time for speakers to be as follows:
 - 20 minutes in total for:
 - Conveners and seconders moving deliverances as a whole
 - Petitioners—stating the petition
 - Appellants—stating the appeal
 - Respondents to appeals
 - Question time
 - 15 minutes in total for:
 - Overturists—stating the overture
 - 5 minutes for:
 - Appellants in reply
 - Movers of substantive motions and amendments
 - All other speakers.
 4. Grant an extension of 10 minutes to the Convener of the Church and Nation Committee when moving the deliverance of that committee.
 5. Carry the royal address with the singing of the Royal Anthem, and the loyal addresses with the singing of Rejoice! 613, *God of Eternity*, vv. 1–2, 5–6.
 6. Appoint a Ballot Committee for the Assembly consisting of:
 - Ministers: Philip Daffy (Convener), Clinton Le Page, Matthew James
 - Elders: Bert Stasse, Doug Fraser.
 7. Permit committee conveners and chairpersons who are not members of the Assembly to address the Assembly when their respective committee's report and deliverance is before the Assembly.
 8. Permit Christian Education and Nurture Committee portfolio holders to address the Assembly at the invitation of the CENC Convener when that Committee's deliverance is being moved (remaining within the time set in clause 3 above for the moving of a deliverance).
 9. Encourage Assembly members to attend the remaining Assembly prayer meetings on Wednesday and Thursday mornings at 8.30am in the Robert White Meeting Room.
 10. Approve generally the outline of business as given in the report.
 11. Approve the Order of Business for the second sederunt, Tuesday, 7 October, 2014.
- The motion was seconded and approved.

13. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table the minutes of the 1st Sederunt.

14. Minutes of the May 2014 Commission of Assembly

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table the minutes of the Commission of Assembly, held 6 May 2014, and moved that they be received.

The motion was seconded and approved.

15. New Members

New members of the Assembly were introduced to the Moderator.

The Moderator welcomed the new members to the Assembly and led the Assembly in prayer for them.

16. Elder's Jubilee

The Clerk advised the Assembly that he has been notified by the Presbytery of Gippsland of the following Elder's jubilee: Elder Rod Bennett of Morwell.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Note the following, and place on record, appreciation for the faithful service of Mr Rod Bennett as an Elder within the Morwell Presbyterian Church, serving the parish actively for 54 years since 1960, as Board of Management secretary since 1963 with only temporary periods of leave from this role, and also as representative on Presbytery for many years.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator presented Mr Bennett a certificate commemorating the long-standing service of this Elder, and led in prayer.

17. Ministerial Deaths

The Clerk reported that Rev Tony Parle and Rev Girgis Girgis had died since the last meeting of Assembly.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Note the passing of Rev Anthony Gerard Parle and Rev Girgis Mikhael Girgis, and place on record the following as tributes:

Rev Anthony Gerard Parle (1959 – 2014)

Anthony Gerard Parle was born in 1959 and died on the 10th June, 2014, aged 55 years. Tony was brought up on the northern beaches side of Sydney, attended a Marist Brothers School, and so was brought up in a loyal Catholic family.

After University, and an extensive re-think, Tony relocated to Melbourne and trained for the ministry at the Presbyterian Theological College from 1991 to 1993 and was exited to The Leigh Parish.

Tony and Joyce served together in Presbyterian ministry in The Leigh Parish (Inverleigh, Teesdale, Shelford) from 1994 to 2003; until called to the Epping-Lalor Parish, 2003 until his demission in 2013. Tony served his two parishes well - with faithfulness, integrity and out of a deep love for the Lord Jesus Christ. He is much admired and thanked at Epping for guiding the Parish through a major property development and building program – such that their church premises today are the envy of many.

He also served the Presbytery of Melbourne North, for years, as its Clerk - with diligence and perseverance.

He served this General Assembly with cheerfulness and loyalty - a valued member of the Church and Nation Committee and more recently, the Business Committee. His insights: ran deep; his analysis of process: precise; his capacity for discussion was enormous.

Consistent with his coming to an understanding of reformed faith from his Catholic upbringing – by intense questioning, reflection and hard-fought-for conviction, he brought all these to the table at the General Assembly ... and this is what he gave to us. We are grateful.

We will miss his gentlemanly courtesy and broad smile, his fierce determination to explore concepts; we'll even miss the furrowed brow when he insisted that we are doing something wrong here - in need of correction.

A loyal servant of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. A man of deep contemplative thought and scholarly input. In Presbytery or Assembly or committee, Tony Parle had that rare ability, after we'd talked ALL through an issue, and were approaching satisfaction that we'd answered the question or solved the problem ... to drop into the discussion a ponderous question or exclamation – revealing a WHOLE aspect of the issue we'd not even thought about.

Tony was a man of huge compassion like his loving Saviour, a man who showed exemplary patience under trial. He reminded us of that Proverb (ch 18): "there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Tony Parle was THAT sort of friend ... you could depend on Tony and always trust his word. We stand to learn much from him.

Girgis Mikhael Girgis (1927 – 2014)

Girgis Mikhael Girgis was born in 1927 in Upper Egypt, raised in a Christian home, as the 6th child of 10 siblings. Girgis gained a tertiary qualification and qualified as an English teacher; and, after graduation, was assigned to teach in country schools through Upper Egypt, using this opportunity to preach and teach in local country churches.

He moved to Alexandria in early 1950s and married Lily in 1958. Girgis and Lily travelled on an education exchange program as a teacher in Sudan in 1963 to 1967 where he also joined and ministered in the church there with the Lord helping them to be fruitful.

Having moved then to Cairo in 1971, Girgis joined the Heliopolis Presbyterian Church where he continued his ministry among the youth and as an Elder in the church. He then completed a degree in theology while working full time as a teacher and a school vice-principal of a large school of 3000 children.

At the relatively young age of 54, he retired as a teacher to enter a ministry of God as a full time missionary amongst the rubbish collectors in the slums of Cairo.

So, after a lifetime of ministry as an Elder, preacher, minister, missionary within the Presbyterian Church in Egypt, this retired gentleman migrated to Australia with his family to commence a new ministry here with us, from 1984.

Girgis began his Australian Presbyterian ministry by running a Milk Bar business, during which he reached out to every customer who entered his door, touching many lives, and was also very active in the ministry of Arabic Evangelical Church.

Rev Girgis Girgis led the Arabic speaking congregation from 1985 to 1996 and was finally recognised as a minister within the PCA during the meetings of the 1997 General Assembly of Australia.

Girgis was a quiet gentleman, hardworking, gracious and always willing to minister to those who needed him.

He loved God and God's Word and poured out himself for all – for the church as a whole and yet also on personal and individual levels. He always looked for ways to build the church and build up others around him. Encouraging new ministers arriving, seeking how to plant new congregations - instilling the hope we find in Christ in those around him.

The message that Girgis loved to preach is that of reconciliation – reconciliation with God through Jesus Christ the Son and also with each other. He was one of those of whom Paul spoke in Corinthians: "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors ... We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

Rev Girgis Girgis, died – full of faith – in July 2014, aged 87 years.

The motion was seconded and approved.
The Moderator led the Assembly in prayer.

18. Royal Address

The Clerk moved the royal address, as follows:

That the Assembly:

Request the Moderator to transmit through his Excellency the Governor of Victoria the following address to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II:

To the Queen's Most Excellent Majesty,

May it please Your Majesty:

We, the commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, now convened in Melbourne in the year of our Lord two thousand and fourteen do respectfully renew our expression of loyalty to Your Majesty's person and to the throne.

We are mindful of the responsibilities laid upon you by the duties of Your Majesty's high office as Queen of Australia. Therefore we, in our Assembly, in our local congregations and in our private devotions, do

pray that the Sovereign Triune God will by His Holy Spirit grant Your Majesty every grace needful for discharging the duties of your office to His pleasure and glory, and in obedience to His most Holy Word.

In these days of political uncertainty in many nations, we give thanks for all the liberties that flow from our Christian heritage. In the light of this heritage, and with an earnest desire for the further Glory of Christ in the world, it is the prayer of our Assembly that Your Majesty, as Queen of Australia, will do all in your power to affirm that Jesus Christ alone is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

It is our sincere prayer that the Lord Jesus Christ, the only King and Head of the Church, may in His mercy, continue to bless Your Majesty, His Royal Highness, Prince Philip and the members of your family, and sustain you in body and mind for His service in the days ahead.

We, the ministers and Elders of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria have the honour and humble privilege to be Your Majesty's faithful and loyal subjects.

Signed in our name and at our appointing.

Moderator

The motion was seconded and approved with the singing of the Royal Anthem, "God save our gracious Queen."

19. Loyal addresses

The Clerk moved the Loyal addresses as follows:

That the Assembly:

1. Request the Moderator to transmit to His Excellency the Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia the following address:

To the Governor General

May it please Your Excellency

We, the commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, send respectful greetings to you. It is our prayerful desire that, in fulfilling the many and varied duties of your office, you will know, trust and follow the guidance God gives in his Holy Word. For over 110 years the Governor-General has played an important role in the life of our nation. We seek God's enabling grace for you, so that all you say and do will express grace, mercy and peace.

2. Request the Moderator to transmit to the Prime Minister of Australia the following address:

To the Prime Minister

We, the commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, meeting in Melbourne respectfully send greetings to you, your ministers and to all the members of the House of

Representatives and the Senate. The Triune God, who is the true Lord and sovereign of the whole world, has entrusted you with a high responsibility. He has ordained that for the time being you should lead our nation under Him, and make the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ the defining principle of its public good. To that end you have the responsibility to encourage all that He calls good and to restrain that which He defines as evil. In the performance of these tasks, you are of course ultimately accountable to Him. Like those have done before you, you daily take up this responsibility in the face of many calls for wise leadership. We remind you that ultimately “wisdom is from above” and we commend to you to call upon the wisdom of the God of the universe, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that “prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all in high position, that we may live peaceable and quiet lives, in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). To that end, we pray constantly that you and your government will govern with that sense of righteousness, honesty and integrity which comes from God’s Law and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and that you will know and trust God’s saving grace, mercy and peace as you govern.

3. Request the Moderator to transmit to the Premier of Victoria the following address:

To the Premier

We, the commissioners of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, meeting in Melbourne respectfully send greetings to you, your ministers and to all the members of the Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council.

The Triune God, who is the true Lord and sovereign of the whole world, has entrusted you with a high responsibility. He has ordained that for the time being you should lead our state under Him, and make the glory of the Lord Jesus Christ the defining principle of its public good. To that end you have the responsibility to encourage all that He calls good and to restrain that which He defines as evil. In the performance of these tasks, you are of course ultimately accountable to Him.

Like those have done before you, you daily take up this responsibility in the face of many calls for wise leadership. We remind you that ultimately “wisdom is from above” and we commend to you to call upon the wisdom of the God of the universe, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that “prayers, intercessions and thanksgiving be made for all in high position, that we may live peaceable and quiet lives, in all godliness and holiness” (1 Timothy 2:1-2). To that end we pray constantly that you and your government will govern with that sense of righteousness, honesty and integrity which comes from God’s Law and the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and that you will know and trust God’s saving grace, mercy and peace as you govern.

The motion was seconded and approved with the singing of the hymn, “*God of Eternity*” vv. 1–2, 5–6 (Rejoice! 613).

20. Communication 10 – from Mr Brian D Bayston OAM, Law Agent of the PCV re: his retirement as PCV Law Agent

Communication 10 was laid on the table and received.

21. Retirement of Mr Brian D Bayston OAM as Law Agent of the PCV

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Record its thanks to Mr Brian D Bayston OAM for the services he has rendered as Law Agent of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for 40 years since 1974, and for his outstanding commitment to the cause, above and beyond expectation, his loyalty to the gospel of Christ Jesus, faithfulness to the church, and leadership of the General Assembly, both as Law Agent and also as Moderator in 1999-2000.

The motion was seconded and approved with acclamation.

The Moderator made a presentation to Mr Bayston on behalf of the Assembly and invited him to speak.

Mr Bayston addressed the Assembly with personal testimony to God's grace in his life and of his work as Law Agent.

The Moderator led in prayer.

(2) Rev Andrew Bray sought leave to move that subject to Mr Bayston's permission, the Assembly include his speech in its minutes.

Leave was not granted.

22. Appointment of Law Agent

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Authorise the Board of Investment and Finance to appoint a Law Agent *pro tem* in compliance with the requirements of Rule 5:17(a).
2. In order to fill the vacancy in the office of Law Agent, and acting under rule 5:36, authorise the Clerk to –
 - a. Inform presbyteries of the vacancy in the office of Law Agent;
 - b. Invite presbyteries to nominate a suitably qualified legal practitioner for the office of Law Agent, and to give the Clerk details of the qualifications of such nominees, together with the signed permission of the nominee, by 31 March 2015.
3. Authorise the Commission of Assembly to be held in May 2015 to receive such nominations from presbyteries and to make an appointment from those nominations, with the terms of appointment to be proposed by the Board of Investment and Finance.

The motion was seconded and approved.

23. Communication 9 – from Rev Dr Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA, re: GAV Appointment of Ministers and Elders to Moderator's Nominating Committee

Communication 9 was laid on the table and received.

Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Noting that responses are due by 31 December 2014, permit the Selection Committee to receive nominations for the office of Moderator of the 2016 General Assembly of Australia up until Tuesday evening 9:00pm, ready for a ballot on Wednesday afternoon at 12:15pm.

The motion was seconded and approved.

24. Moderator-General, Rt Rev David Cook

The Moderator welcomed the Moderator-General, Rt Rev David Cook, to the Assembly and invited him to speak.

Mr Cook addressed the Assembly.

25. Presbytery of Melbourne North – Permission to Meet

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant permission for the Presbytery of Melbourne North to meet for a Special Purpose Meeting outside its bounds (see rules 4:20 and 6:12) and during the sittings of the General Assembly (see rules 5:51 and 6:13).

The motion was seconded and approved.

26. Presbytery of Melbourne East – Permission to Meet

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant permission for the Presbytery of Melbourne East to meet for a Special Purpose Meeting outside its bounds (see rules 4:20 and 6:12) and during the sittings of the General Assembly (see rules 5:51 and 6:13), in order for the Presbytery to consider its response regarding “Appeals”.

The motion was seconded and approved.

27. Past Moderator

The report of the Past Moderator, Rev David Palmer, was laid on the table and received.

Mr Palmer spoke of his year in office and his experience in the wider church.

The Moderator expressed the thanks of the Assembly to Mr Palmer.

28. Moderator’s Committee

The report of the Moderator’s Committee was laid on the table and received.

The convener, Rev Graeme Weber, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Express our thanks to Rev David Palmer for his second term as Moderator.
2. Again recognise the full support to the Moderator given by his wife Chris.
3. Agree that the general model of Presbytery visitation by Moderators shall be as follows:

COUNTRY PRESBYTERIES	NO.	CITY PRESBYTERIES	NO.	TOTAL
Kilnoorat	= 7	Flinders B (3) Melb East A (6)	= 9	16
Geelong <i>plus</i> Kaniva-Nhil	= 7	Flinders A (11)	= 11	18
Ballarat (9) <i>minus</i> Kaniva- Nhil	= 8	Melbourne Nth (11)	= 11	19
North West Vic (6) <i>plus</i> Broadford	= 7	Melbourne East B (9)	= 9	16
Benalla (9) <i>minus</i> Broadford	= 8	Maroondah (9)	= 9	17
Gippsland	= 7	Melbourne West (12)	= 12	19
TOTAL	44	TOTAL	61	105

Flinders A	<i>Aspendale, Cheltenham, Cranbourne, Cardinia/Koo-Wee-Rup, Dandenong, Dromana/Mornington, Frankston, Mordialloc, South East Samoan, Somerville, Sorrento/Rye.</i>
Flinders B	<i>Brighton, Clayton, Clarinda.</i>
Melbourne East A	<i>Ashburton, Burwood, Caulfield/Elwood, Gardenvale East, Malvern, St Kilda/Balaclava.</i>
Melbourne East B	<i>Arabic (South Yarra), Auburn, Camberwell, Canterbury, Hawthorn, Korean (Balwyn), South Yarra, Surrey Hills, Deaf Presbyterian (Surrey Hills).</i>

4. Request the Moderator to visit the presbyteries in accordance with the approved model.
5. Request the Moderator to visit one of the mission fields of our church in consultation with the APWM (Vic) Committee.
6. Request conveners of Assembly Committees to invite the Moderator to a meeting of their committee during his moderatorial year.
7. Confirm the practice that in the case of a parish minister serving as Moderator, that each Sunday that he is out of the parish for specific moderatorial duty, the pulpit supply fee be reimbursed from Assembly funds to his board of management.
8. Declare the responsibility in relation to the duties of the Moderators Committee revert to the Assembly Clerk and that the Moderator's Committee be thanked and discharged.

The motion was seconded and approved.

29. Board of Investment and Finance

The report of the Board and Investment and Finance was laid on the table and received.

In the absence of the Chairman (Mr Edward de Zilwa) Rev Mark Smith moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve that an Assembly Rate of nil be set for the 2015-2016 year.
2. Approve the following honoraria:

Deputy Clerk	\$2,675
Business Convener	\$830
3. Give thanks to God for the faithful service of Rev Andrew Venn and Mr David Brown and pray that God will continue to bless them richly in their ministries.

The motion was seconded and approved.

30. Trusts Corporation

The report of the Trusts Corporation was laid on the table and received.

31. Church Planting Committee

The report of the Church Planting Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Acting Convener, Rev Cameron Garrett, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clause 2 was approved.

Clause 3 was approved.

Clause 4 was disapproved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note with continued gratitude to God the progress our church plants are making.
2. Request presbyteries to consider how they might reach the lost by starting new congregations.
3. Grant a variance of the budget for the Property Development Fund's Property Development Grant (Account #2292) to \$1,500,000.

The motion was seconded and approved.

32. Variation of the Order of the Day

It was agreed to vary the order of business to take the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria after the Code Committee's report.

33. Belgrave Heights Christian School

The report of Belgrave Heights Christian School was laid on the table and received.

34. Presbyterian Ladies College

The report of Presbyterian Ladies College was laid on the table and received.

35. Scotch College

The report of Scotch College was laid on the table and received.

36. Commission for Church Institutions

The report of the Commission for Church Institutions was laid on the table and received.

The Clerk moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the Moderator (chairman), Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Law Agent, Rev Douglas Robertson, Rev Ivan Barker, Rev Andrew Bray, Rev John Cho, Rev Trevor Cox, Rev Philip Daffy, Rev Graham Nicholson, Rev Chris Siriweera, Rev Graeme Weber and Elder Dr Robert Baldock, with five members to form a quorum as the Commission for Church Institutions, a commission to exercise the powers of the General Assembly:

1. with respect of or conferred by constitutional documents of Scotch College and Presbyterian Ladies' College, and instruct the Commission that in making appointments to Group A and Group C of the Council of these schools it should appoint persons committed to upholding the trusts on which those schools are held;
2. with respect to the constitutions of any other school or institution in connection with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria as may be necessary or expedient from time to time and in particular powers of appointment or removal of officers and directors.

The motion was seconded and approved.

37. Archive

The Clerk's report was laid on the table and received.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank the PCV Archivist, Mrs Christine Palmer, together with her volunteers, for the way they apply themselves with professional expertise, faithfulness and cheerfulness to the job of supervising the PCV Archive on our behalf.

2. Continue to remember God's gifts and blessings to this church over the years, and to recall God's mercy and kindness of his grace toward us, by keeping and maintaining a faithful record of past events in the life of the PCV.
3. Without any diminishing of services for the PCV, its organisations and members, approve the partial closing of PCV Archive services, namely to the wider (outside) public for a year in the first instance.

The motion was seconded and approved.

38. Code and General Administration Committee

The report of the Code and General Administration Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Dr John Wilson, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-3 were approved.

Clause 4 was moved and seconded.

The Convener sought leave to fall from Clause 4.

Leave was granted.

Clause 5 was approved.

The deliverance as a whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note that the proposed Code Revision is being re-written and will be distributed to presbyteries and committees during the year for comment and a draft presented to the 2015 General Assembly.
2. Authorise the Commission of Assembly, 2015, to receive and deal with the report and opinion of the committee on the clarification and meaning of rule 4.89, following their final consultation with the Trusts Corporation.
3. Regarding the communications from the GAA:
 - a. approve the changes regarding GAA committee regulations concerning the nomination and election of committee members and conveners;
 - b. approve the remit for inclusion of new rules 2.04, 2.20 and 2.28(b) in the GAA Code of Discipline.
4. Appoint the Selection Committee in the following terms:
 Rev Hui Lim (Rt 15), Rev Dr Robert Carner (Rt 16), Rev Dean Carroll (Rt 17), Elder Reg Butcher (Rt 16), Elder Noel Johnston (Rt 15);
 NON-METRO: Rev Cameron Garrett (Convener), (Rt 16) Rev Neil Harvey (Rt 17).

The motion was seconded.

The Assembly was advised by Rev Kevin Murray that the consultation by the GAA Code Committee with the GAA Committees concerned which had been directed by the GAA had not taken place.

Rev Graham Nicholson raised a question of privilege.

The Moderator ruled that there was no breach of privilege.

The motion was approved.

39. Ad Hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria was laid on the table and received.

In the absence of the Convener (Mr James Bligh), Rev Peter Owen moved the deliverance.

Rev Cameron Garrett asked the Moderator to rule on the competency of clause 1.

The Moderator ruled that the clause was not competent.
It was agreed to adjourn the debate. (min. 71)

40. State News Committee

The report of the State News Committee was laid on the table and received.
In the absence of the Convener (Rev Neil Harvey), the Clerk moved the deliverance:
That the Assembly:

1. Thank Mrs Chiara Bilyj for her outstanding work as editor of *fellow workers*.
2. Urge individuals, congregations, parishes, presbyteries and committees to provide news items (including photographs) so the church as a whole hears reports of what God is doing throughout the state.
3. Encourage the use of *fellow workers* to promote prayerful interest and support of the spread of the gospel throughout the state, across Australia and further afield.

The motion was seconded and approved.

41. Petition 1 – from Presbytery of Gippsland, re: funding for Bairnsdale parish

The petitioners were brought to the bar.
The petition was taken as read and received.
The petitioners stated the petition.
Questions were asked.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the Ministry Development Committee, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Bairnsdale Parish for the 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:
That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the Ministry Development Committee, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Bairnsdale Parish for the 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18 financial years.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

42. Petition 5 – from the Presbytery of Ballarat, re: funding for the Horsham parish

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

In accord with rule 5:78, agree to shorten the 30-day advance notice rule and to deal with Petition 5 from the Presbytery of Ballarat regarding continuing MDC funding for Horsham Parish.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the Ministry Development Committee, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Horsham Parish for each financial year for five years from the date of appointment or settlement, in order to secure a full time ministry in the parish during this watershed time of rebuilding and redevelopment.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Authorise the Ministry Development Committee, at its discretion and subject to its own guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Horsham Parish for each financial year for five years from the date of appointment or settlement, in order to secure a full time ministry in the parish during this watershed time of rebuilding and redevelopment.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

43. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00pm on Tuesday 7 October 2014, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
3rd Sederunt: Tuesday 7 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Tuesday 7 October 2014 at 7.00pm.

44. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Dean Carroll, led the Assembly in worship and constituted the Assembly with prayer.

45. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the apologies as follows:

Ministers:

For this sederunt: Marvin Hagans, Grant Lawry, Hugh Price, Mark Tonkin, Andrew Vines.

Elders:

For this sederunt: Geoff Cross, Elizabeth Cutler, Edward de Zilwa, Tom Fleming, John Singleton.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

46. Business Committee

The Business Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, laid on the table a proposed agenda and moved that it be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

47. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table the minutes of the 2nd Sederunt.

48. Building and Property Committee

The report of the Building and Property Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Peter Phillips, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clause 1 was moved.

Rev Michael Jensen moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause one by replacing the word "minimum" with the word "recommended".

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

Clause 1 was approved.

Clauses 2 and 3 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the following Minimum Manse Standards:

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA MINIMUM MANSE STANDARDS - 2014

The standards for a manse property have been assessed as follows:

- A. Construction or purchase of a new Manse
- B. Upgrade of an existing Manse

A. CONSTRUCTION OR PURCHASE OF A NEW MANSE

A new manse, whether purpose built or purchased ready built must comply with the following standards, except for such variations as the General Assembly's Building and Property Committee may in any special case approve.

1. General Requirements

A manse is required to provide both a private residence for the minister and his family, and, taking into account any suitable facilities provided in the church building or elsewhere, facilities for the minister's study, preparation, counselling and administrative work.

1.1 Location

If the manse is on the same land title as the church it should preferably be a separate building fenced off from the church with separate private entrance and garden.

If the manse is attached to the church buildings it must not be linked internally and must have a separate private entrance and private garden.

If the manse is on a separate land title it should preferably be located within 2 kilometres of the church.

1.2 Building access

Pedestrian access from the street or from a visitor parking area on the site to the front door must be wheelchair friendly, with ramped paths suitable for wheelchairs provided in lieu of steps. Care should be taken to ensure stormwater drainage design is adequate to prevent potential flooding of the manse building. A single step at the front entry is acceptable. A relatively flat site will provide less design challenges.

1.3 Orientation

Except where special local conditions dictate otherwise, the living and sleeping areas must be oriented to the north and east and the building designed in accordance with passive solar design criteria to achieve low energy costs, reduced maintenance, and increased level of comfort for the occupants. This will entail attention to appropriate solar orientation, the use of thermal mass, and appropriate ventilation and window placement.

1.4 Building construction

The building must be compliant with the current version of the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and the Victorian Building Regulations (VBR). The building should be a Class 1 building and be designed in accordance with energy efficiency requirements of the applicable Climatic Zone.

2. Accommodation

2.1 Study/Office

Generally to be attached to, or part of, the house with access from or near the front entrance and separate from the living area and preferably have a northern or eastern, but not a westerly aspect. A separate building is acceptable, but must be accessible without entering the house.

Access to the study/office must not be through or past private areas of the house. The entry area must be able to function as a waiting area.

A study/office must have:

- A floor area, clear of built-in cupboards and shelving, of not less than 15.5m² and be suitable for use for small meetings;
- not less than 14 lineal metres of bookshelf;
- a telephone and internet connection;
- and access to a toilet and basin nearby that is not the family facility or accessed by passing through private areas of the residence or give unrestricted access to such areas.

Where the minister's office is provided in the church and meets the requirements set out above the following minimum requirements apply to the office/study in the manse:

- A floor area, clear of built-in cupboards and shelving, of not less than 12m² and have at least one openable window;
- must be positioned near the front entry of the house;
- must not have a westerly aspect;
- be equipped with at least 6 lineal meters of bookshelf;
- and must have access to a toilet and basin nearby that is not the family facility or accessed by passing through private areas of the residence or give unrestricted access to such areas.

2.2 Lounge room, Dining room

These may be combined when a separate family area is provided. It must be possible for the lounge area to be used for a meeting without restricting the use of the rest of the house by the minister's family. The minister's family must be able to utilise a separate living area and have free access to kitchen, bathroom, toilet and bedrooms. A separate toilet and hand basin must be available to the meeting participants. This may be the same facility associated with the study/office.

2.3 Kitchen, Family room

The kitchen must be open to the family room and also be capable of serving through to the lounge/dining room. It must be not less than 14m² in floor area with 5 lineal metres of bench space plus adequate cupboard and pantry storage.

Facilities shall include:

- Oven with griller
- Cook top with at least four elements/burners and range hood with external exhaust
- Space above bench for microwave oven
- Dishwasher (minimum 3.5 Star energy rating and 4 Star water rating)
- Space for refrigerator and upright freezer
- A minimum of three double power outlets over benches (separate provision for microwave oven, fridge, freezer and dishwasher)

2.4 Bedrooms

Minimum three and preferably four, all capable of accommodating two beds and a student's desk and with telephone outlet in main bedroom. Each bedroom to have two double power outlets and a built-in wardrobe not less than 550mm deep.

- Bedroom 1 – not less than 13m² area with 2 lineal metres of wardrobe
- Bedroom 2 – not less than 12m² area with 1.2 lineal metres of wardrobe
- Bedroom 3 – not less than 12m² area with 1.2 lineal metres of wardrobe
- Bedroom 4 – not less than 11m² area with 1.2 lineal metres of wardrobe

2.5 Bathroom

Fitted with bath, shower cubicle (separate from bath), vanity cupboard with basin and mirror over, exhaust fan and some form of heating. Tile or suitably protected walls around shower and over bath and vanity basin.

2.6 Ensuite and WC

Main bedroom must have an ensuite bathroom with shower, toilet and hand basin.

A separate toilet, preferably with hand basin must be provided for use of the family.

2.7 Laundry

Provide with trough and cabinet, storage cupboard for brooms, ironing board etc. and ensure sufficient space to erect ironing board. Cupboard mounted fold out ironing board is acceptable. Space for floor mounted washing machine (with hot and cold taps) and wall mounted dryer. Provide room with wall or ceiling mounted exhaust fan.

2.8 Linen/storage cupboard

With a minimum width of 1200mm and 450mm depth and located in family section of house.

3. Heating

Must be provided to all habitable rooms, but an efficient and economical form of heating must be provided to lounge, dining, family room and study/office.

4. Cooling

Provided to at least the family room and study/office. Air-conditioning systems must have a minimum 4 Star energy rating. Evaporative cooling systems may be adopted where the climate is conducive.

5. Hot Water Service

Preferred system is a solar storage hot water system (note 6 Star standard requirements below) located as close as possible to the connected outlets. Connect to all internal water points except toilet cisterns.

6. Insulation/energy rating

Energy rating of houses is governed by Building Code of Australia (BCA) requirements and the minimum requirement must be attained. 2014 requirement is for a 6 Star home as follows:

- A 6 Star standard applies to the thermal performance of a home, renovation or addition, plus the installation of a solar hot water system or a rainwater tank for toilet flushing.
- The 6 Star energy efficiency rating applies to the building envelope: the roof, walls, floor and windows.
- 6 Star requirements include efficiency standards for lighting, but not plug in appliances.

7. Solar panels

Consideration is to be given to installing solar panels for electrical generation. Establish applicable government rebates and energy concessions available at time of construction.

8. Floor coverings

Serviceable carpet must be provided in study/office, lounge, bedrooms, hallways and family room. Polished floor boards or similar may be substituted for carpet to some or all of these areas. Wet areas such as kitchen, bathroom, laundry, ensuite and toilet are to be provided with serviceable sheet type vinyl or floor tiles.

9. Windows

Quality windows must be provided with lockable sashes and durable finishes and fitted with curtains and/or blinds. Glass must be compliant with Australian Standards and energy efficient, low-E or double glazed.

10. Light fittings

Light fittings must be provided to all rooms and be low energy type, e.g., LED or fluorescent bulbs. External lighting must be provided to front entry and adjacent to all external doors.

11. Garage or carport

Preferably double, but must have provision for one covered car space. On-site parking for at least two cars must be provided.

12. Rainwater tank

Provision of a 5000 litre rainwater tank and pump connected to toilets and laundry is recommended (note 6 Star standard requirements above).

External water taps must be provided at the front and rear of the manse property and be connected to the rainwater tank. These taps must change over to mains supply when tanks are empty.

13. Garden storage

Enclosed storage facility for garden equipment, tools, work bench and general storage of not less than 4.5m² area must be provided.

14. Clothes line

Provide clothes line in the form of rotary hoist (3 metre diameter), rectangular hoist (2.4m x 1.5m) or wall mounted folding unit (2.2m x 1.5m) as a minimum.

B. UPGRADING EXISTING MANSE

When altering or extending an existing manse to 50 per cent or more of the volume of the existing manse, the whole house needs to be brought up to 6 Star Standard. The building designer will be required to advise on the design options and the most cost effective requirements to achieve this as part of their submission to the Building and Property Committee.

2. Request the committee, with the assistance of the Church Architect, to prepare an additional section to the Assembly's Minimum Manse Standards, '**Maintenance and Upgrading of Existing Manses**', with the clauses of this section being framed in the form of guidelines and recommendations to boards of management and presbyteries for the regular maintenance of manses and the review of manses with a view to, as far as practicable, bringing them into compliance with the current minimum standards, especially in terms of heating/cooling, insulation etc., with a view to bringing the proposal either to the May 2015 Commission of Assembly, or to the October 2015 General Assembly for approval.
3.
 - a. Approve the committee assisting the Ministry Development Committee with the assessment of manses in connection with exit and home missionary appointments as follows:
 - i. The Ministry Development Committee may ask the committee (through its convener) to report on the condition and general suitability of manses for proposed appointments.
 - ii. The committee will refer each request to the Church Architect, who will either inspect the manse himself and report to the committee, or, in cases where it was impractical for him to inspect it himself, arrange for or approve of some other suitably qualified person to inspect and report, the cost of such report to be borne by the congregation.
 - iii. The committee will then take appropriate action in response to this report, including advising the Ministry Development Committee of the report and liaising with the board of management regarding necessary repairs, renovations etc., and, after due process including, if necessary, further inspection and report, ultimately approving or disapproving the suitability of the manse for the proposed appointment.
 - b. Request the committee to report further to the 2015 General Assembly on its experience in assisting the Ministry Development Committee with the assessment of manses in connection with exit and home missionary

appointments, and seeking any changes to its regulations that it may consider appropriate in the light of that experience.

The motion was seconded and approved.

49. Communication 3 – from Very Rev Robert Benn, Convener, GAA Relationships with Other Churches Committee, re: World Reformed Fellowship

Communication 3 was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator invited Very Rev Robert Benn to address the Assembly.

Mr Benn spoke regarding the World Reformed Fellowship.

50. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

The report of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Dennis Wright, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the following process for grant applications:
The APR is to be approved by the Presbytery; AND
 - a. If the APR is submitted to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee within the period 1 July to 30 September, a full year of monthly sustentation payments may be made; OR
 - b. Forms submitted after 30 September may be approved with a monthly rate not greater than the maximum sustentation grant amount (\$10,080 for 2014-15) divided by 12 and for the rest of the financial year.
2. Ask presbyteries to encourage timely auditing of parish finances and completion of the Annual Parish Report as early as possible after the completion of their financial period and no later than the due date (APR page 1), but noting the requirements of clause 1 above.
3. Encourage each member of boards of management to take an active role in the budget preparation and approval prior to presentation at their congregational meetings for approval and to be mindful of the budget when considering income and expenses throughout the financial year.
4. Further encourage presbyteries to establish standing committees with appointed conveners to assess the finances of parishes on a consistent basis, and to evaluate all applications for assistance and make recommendations to their presbytery concerning the same.
5. Warmly thank all the PCV Office staff for their advice and time spent in the administration of the work of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee especially in the support and encouragement of a new convener.
6. Request all presbyteries to review their ministers' employment records and update the General Manager PCV of any details not yet advised.
7. Warmly thank all members of the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee for their diligence in attendance and contributions, especially the registrar, Reg Butcher, who carries an enormous workload on behalf of the committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

51. Social Services Committee

The report of the Social Services Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Robert Lowe, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Praise God for Rev Wally Gear, Rev Andrew Bray and Mrs Janine Moyter, for their pastoral care work with the residents of Kirkbrae and Tannoch Brae.

2. Pray for guidance and support for the Social Services Committee as it oversees the development of Kirkbrae.
3. Give thanks to God for the faithful service of the executive team and staff at Kirkbrae.
4. Praise God for the generosity of St Andrew's Foundation in financially supporting the pastoral care program at Kirkbrae.
5. Give thanks to God for the donation from Mr Alan Douglas to assist the poor and needy anywhere in Australia.

The motion was seconded and approved.

52. General Mission Program Committee

The report of the General Mission Program Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Norm Sharp, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Commend those parishes and presbyteries which have fully subscribed their allocations for the 2013/14 General Mission Program and particularly commend those congregations which have subscribed more than the amount allocated to it by their presbytery.
2. When considering allocations to parishes, presbyteries are requested to:
 - a. consider each parish's ability to meet their allocation irrespective of the formula used in deciding the respective allocations, and;
 - b. make inquiries of parishes when allocations are not being met.
3. Request presbyteries to:
 - a. remind sessions, boards of management and congregations of the need for this vital missions program and;
 - b. encourage ministers and sessions to promote the General Mission Program in their congregations.

The motion was seconded and approved.

53. Law Agent Retirement Speech

Rev Andrew Bray moved:

That the Assembly:

Having acknowledged the outstanding retiring speech of the Law Agent, Brian D Bayston, by applause and standing ovation, and with his prior permission, record his speech in its entirety for posterity purposes within the minutes of the 2014 General Assembly for the present and future generations of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded.

The Clerk raised a question of privilege.

The Moderator ruled that there was a breach of privilege, and ruled the motion incompetent.

54. Clerkship Committee

The report of the Clerkship Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev David Palmer, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the following addition to the terms of settlement for the Assembly Clerk:
 - Five week's annual leave
 - One week's annual study leave
 - Ministerial long service leave

2. Express its sincerest appreciation to Rev Peter Phillips for:
 - a. fulfilling the role of Deputy Clerk with dedication, commitment, and a conscientiousness that has served this church so well;
 - b. his operation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria email news network that links all parishes, home mission stations, Assembly committees and other church organisations with timely updates on upcoming events, items for prayer and action, and other matters of interest.
3. Express its gratitude to God and its appreciation and confidence in its Clerk, Rev Dr John Wilson, in the performance of his diverse and often complex duties.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led in prayer.

55. Petition 2 – from the Presbytery of Maroondah, re: seat on the Presbytery for Rev Chuol Yat

The petitioners were brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioners stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant Rev Chuol Yat a seat on the Presbytery of Maroondah for as long as he remains a Home Missionary of Warburton Home Mission Station.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioners of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Grant Rev Chuol Yat a seat on the Presbytery of Maroondah for as long as he remains a Home Missionary of Warburton Home Mission Station.

The Moderator removed the petitioners from the bar.

56. Overture 1 – from Selection Committee, re: Committee Structure

The overture was laid on the table and received.

The overture was stated by Rev Cameron Garrett.

Questions were asked of the overturists.

The business was adjourned. (min. 67)

57. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Wednesday 8 October 2014, which having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
4th Sederunt: Wednesday 8 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall,
Wednesday 8 October 2014 at 9.30am.

58. Constitution

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rt Rev David Brown, constituted the Assembly with prayer.

59. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rt Rev David Cook, led the Assembly in the second of his Assembly expositions, "The Story of One", based on Acts 8.

60. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the following apologies:

For this sederunt:

Ministers: Stephen Deroon, Hugh Price, Peter Roberts, Andrew Venn.

Elders: Edward de Zilwa.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies:

The motion was seconded and approved.

61. Association

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly associate Elder Dennis Tranter, member of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia in the State of New South Wales.

The motion was seconded and approved.

62. Business Committee

The Business Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, laid on the table a proposed agenda and moved that it be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

63. Minutes of Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table minutes of the 3rd sederunt.

64. The Bible Society in Australia (Victoria)

The report of the Bible Society Representative, Rev Keith Allen, was laid on the table and received.

In the absence of Rev Keith Allen, Elder Dennis Wright moved the deliverance.

That the Assembly:

1. Express to Bible Society Australia the Presbyterian Church of Victoria's recognition and prayerful support for its continuing task of making the

Scriptures available and read in every language and among every people in the world.

2. Encourage individuals and representatives of congregational organisations to make their own contact with Bible Society Australia for purposes of support and information through its website (www.biblesociety.org.au).

Elder Dennis Wright introduced Mr Mark Nidenko, Bible Society Church Relations Coordinator, who addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator thanked Mr Nidenko.

The motion to approve the deliverance was seconded and approved.

65. Communication 11 – from, Very Rev Bob Thomas, Convener, PresAID, re: 2014 Christmas Appeal

Communication 11 was laid on the table and received.

Very Rev Bob Thomas moved:

That the Assembly:

Commend the PresAID Christmas Appeal to all congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for their prayerful and practical support.

The motion was seconded and approved.

66. Presbyterian Church of Victoria Website

Very Rev Allan Harman moved:

That the Assembly:

1. On the understanding that the Christian Education and Nurture Committee has relinquished control of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria website, place the overall supervision of maintaining a Presbyterian Church of Victoria website under the duties of the Clerk of Assembly.
2. Add this supervision of the website to the specific duties of the clerk contained in his job description.

The motion was seconded and approved.

67. Overture 1 – from Selection Committee, re: Assembly Committee Structure (min. 56)

The business was resumed.

Questions continued.

(1) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) Rev Cameron Garrett moved:

That the Assembly:

Direct the Code Committee to bring to the 2015 General Assembly proposed rules and regulations for approval to facilitate the following changes:

1. Creating a distinction between 'Standing Committees' and 'Special Committees'.
2. Dissolving the following Committees:
 - a. Assessors Committee
 - b. Church Records Management and Archives Committee
 - c. Clerkship Committee
 - d. Conciliation Committee
 - e. Exit Student Committee
 - f. General Mission Program
 - g. Moderator's Committee

- h. Defence Force Chaplaincy
- i. Building and Property Committee
- 3. Designating the following existing committees as 'Special Committees':
 - a. Ballot Committee
 - b. Records Committee
- 4. Increasing the number of members of the MDC to 10.
 - a. Decreasing the number of members of the CENC to 8.
 - b. Decreasing the number of members of the CANDN to 8.

The motion was seconded.

(3) Rev Ian Hutton moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by replacing all words with the following words:

Direct the Selection Committee:

- 1. to consult thoroughly with all committees involved; and
- 2. to facilitate discussion between committees; as to the wisdom and impact of the proposed committee restructure, and to report to the 2015 General Assembly.

The amendment was seconded and approved

The amended motion (3) was seconded and approved.

68. Church and Nation Committee

The report of the Church and Nation Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Darren Middleton, moved the deliverance.

The business was adjourned to take up the fixed order of the day. (min. 108)

69. Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic) Committee

The report of the APWM (Vic) Committee was laid on the table and received.

Rev Dean Carroll presented the following missionaries to the Assembly:

Rev John and Mrs Kara Dekker, with their children, Galilee and Zephaniah
 Elder Dennis and Mrs Glenys Tranter
 Miss Mavis Price
 Mr Ian Campbell

The Moderator welcomed the missionaries and the children.

In the absence of the Convener (Rev Phil Simmonds), Rev Dean Carroll moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

- 1. Praise God for our missionary team, and commend to God and the wider church those who serve the Lord Jesus as part of that team.
- 2. Request the Moderator to give the greetings of the Assembly to all our serving missionaries.
- 3. Praise God for his blessing upon Coins for Mission and the extra support it provides for our missionaries to his glory, with much territory still to be conquered.
- 4. Praise God for strengthened relationships with PTS India and the Partner Churches of South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia, Vanuatu, and Japan.
- 5. Remind the church that Partner Churches will greatly benefit from regular financial gifts that will fund the continuing need of maintenance and/or renovation and for equipping church leaders i.e., pastors' seminars.
- 6. Encourage ministers, sessions and mission committees to seriously consider a short-term mission trip as a method of increasing interest and involvement in world mission.

7. Encourage all congregations to extend financial and prayerful support for our missionaries who minister to the Aboriginal community, especially Rev Rick and Mrs Kaylene Manton.
8. Encourage all churches to regularly pray for our APWM missionaries serving in Australia and overseas, and pray the Lord of the harvest to stir us to raise up/set aside, fully support and send out more labourers into his harvest fields all over the world, especially to the countless millions who have still not heard the Gospel.
9. Praise God for the work of the PWMU State Council and branches in the support of missions.
10. Praise God for the ministry of the APWM National Office in Sydney, and encourage the wider church to extend financial and prayerful support for the ministries of the APWM National Director and our partner churches and missionaries within Australia and overseas.
11. Commend the regular APWM publications to the wider church.
12. Give praise to God for the ministry of the Youth partners and Trades partners short-term mission trips and commend these to the Victorian church.
13. Thank Mr John Vandenberg for his service to the committee as its treasurer, the Scots' Church Melbourne for the use of the meeting rooms, and members of the committee for their service.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Rev Kevin Murray, National Director, APWM, addressed the Assembly.

The Moderator led in prayer.

70. Ballot

A ballot was held for a nominee of the General Assembly for the office of Moderator of the 2016 General Assembly of Australia. (min. 75)

71. Ad Hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria (min. 39)

Rev Peter Owen moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Approve the following guidelines for the establishment of new Schools and their publication by the Ad Hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria as a document titled *Schools Establishment Guidelines*:

Schools Establishment Guidelines

Introduction

This paper sets out the guidelines for schools to be established by the Christian Schools Development Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The policies in this paper cover the following areas:

- Governance of schools.
- Connection with the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- Educational policy.
- General provisions.

Definitions

For the purposes of these guidelines the term “school” should be understood to refer to any educational institution. It is not considered restricted to institutions providing traditional primary or secondary education.

Governance of Schools

This section does not seek to state every constitutional detail, but to provide clear parameters on the essential questions. Details of constitutional arrangements would be tailored to the situation of a school being established, and submitted to the Law Agent for inspection before establishment.

The common means of school governance in Presbyterian history has been by boards of governors. The key issue is, “To whom shall the appointment of governors be entrusted?” The solution most likely to prove stable, and reasonably beyond the influence of narrow interest groups, is that power of appointment should be vested in the well-defined existing structures of the Church, working together in concert. Such a coalition would be based on a shared power of the three levels of courts.

The boards of governors, once appointed, would manage and run the school without direct Church involvement in the daily affairs of a school. The governors are entrusted with all the policy and administrative matters, within terms of their trust. Governors are appointed for a suitable renewable term, perhaps three or four years.

The first Board will be appointed by the Committee, acting in consultation with the Presbytery and Congregations involved (if any). Subsequent governors must be appointed with care by the Church courts, to ensure that there is continuity and cohesion of vision and purpose in the board. For this reason, once the school is established, nominations for subsequent replacements to the board should come in the first instance from within the board itself. These nominations will be forwarded to the Session, Presbytery, or Assembly Committee as the case may be, for appointment or rejection. The appointing court retains the absolute right of veto over Board nominations, and also has the right of initiating appointments on its own initiative if it deems fit, but in normal cases the school governors are in the best position to gauge the expertise and dedication of people within the school community. These constitutional clauses will be unalterable.

Although there is no intention schools should be under parental control, yet the appointing bodies and the governors should be constitutionally required to ensure that a reasonable number of parents are appointed as governors.

A school board will be required to report to Presbytery at regular intervals, say annually. The court retains normal oversight of spiritual worship and teaching within its bounds, although it delegates to the school the responsibility to develop the Christian teaching curriculum and the staff to carry out this task.

Connection with the PCV

The schools will be local schools, established under the aegis of a particular Presbyterian Charge and/or Presbytery, acting with the support of the Committee. While some flexibility in arranging details should be left to suit local situations, the following principles will apply.

1. Any school established is to have a constitutionally indissoluble connection with the PCV. The school is established for the purpose of fostering the Christian educational aims of that Faith expressed in the Scriptures, the Westminster Confession of Faith read in light of the Declaratory Statement. The connection with the Church and the powers of the church are to be stated in unalterable constitutional clauses.
2. The practical connection with the church is to operate at three levels; Congregational (Session), Presbyterial, and State Assembly levels.
 - a. The Christian Schools Development Committee will represent the Assembly in establishing schools in cooperation with Congregations and/or Presbyteries, and will retain certain powers for the first ten years of the school. It will retain quinquennial visitation rights to the schools, with a view to reporting on the state of the schools to the Assembly. The Committee will retain the right to appoint up to three members of the Board for the first ten years of school operation. The purpose of this provision is to ensure a Board has the expertise to conduct sound planning and development in the developmental years. The Committee represents the initiative of the PCV as a whole in promoting and fostering the sound establishment of Christian schools.
 - b. Presbyteries would be encouraged by the Committee to explore the commencement of school projects in needy areas of their bounds. The Presbytery may, in conjunction with a Congregation, cooperate with the Assembly Committee in promoting the establishment of a school. Alternatively, a Presbytery might on its own initiative without congregational involvement, commence a school project. The Presbytery will exercise some powers of appointment to the School Councils.
 - c. Parental involvement should be encouraged in Governance and leadership in the school. To ensure the long-term spiritual integrity of the school, however, this should be limited to ensure it does not override the influence of the Assembly or Presbytery.
 - d. A Congregation through its Session may seek the cooperation of the Presbytery and Assembly Committee in initiating a school project. It will be a matter for agreement between Session, Presbytery and Committee, as to the detailed structure of the Board of Governors and appointment rights.

For example:

A Board for a school initiated by a Congregation, with significant input to the project from that congregation, may be best centred on the local Church structure.

In such a case, the Board of twelve members might be appointed with

6 local Congregation members appointed by the Session

3 further Presbyterians appointed by the Presbytery

3 members from other Protestant Churches appointed by the Presbytery;

except that in the first ten years, the Committee would reserve the right to appoint up to three members to the Board in place of three Congregational members.

- e. Other formats may also be envisaged. For example, a School initiated by a wider group in the Presbytery, with no obvious local parish base, may be best to have the Board focused on the Presbytery, with rights to appoint say nine members. If flexibility is accepted in guidelines, while still retaining the important controls, then structures can be designed to incorporate both local area commitment and unchanging Church oversight, and stability will be reasonably assured.

Educational policy

The Schools to be established in connection with the Church will maintain the following general educational policy:

1. School leaders and staff will be expected to hold to and articulate a Christian outlook on education in all its aspects, and to maintain forward growth of understanding and application of the principles and practices of Christian education.
2. School Curricula are to teach a Christian worldview through all the subjects and corporate life of the school.
3. Secondary schools will devote a significant proportion of time in the curriculum to a vigorous and convincing apologetic approach to the Christian faith.
4. The schools will maintain a cooperative and supportive role for Christian parents and for the Church in all aspects of their work.
5. Schools should strive for excellence in order to bring Glory to God.

Enrolment policy

There are multiple models for enrolment of Christian Schools that not only determine the composition of the student body but also the character and impact of the school. Different models may be more or less appropriate depending on the demographics of the area where the school is established or the founding mission of the school.

There can be many variations of enrolment for a school. The three common models that are most often employed are as follows:

- **Exclusive Model**
Where enrolments will only be accepted for children of Christian families.
- **Discipleship Model**
Where the majority of enrolments will be expected to come from Christian families but a portion of enrolments will be open to non-Christians.
- **Mission Model**
Enrolments are open to all.

The advantages and disadvantages of the various models will not be discussed in this document. A model must, however, be consciously chosen at the establishment of a new school and the details of the selected model should be clearly articulated in the foundation and policy documents of the school.

General Provisions

1. All council members, principals, teachers and staff, shall be active Christians, active members in good standing of a Protestant church which holds the same allegiance to Scripture as the Presbyterian church, able to work with a cordial acceptance of the Westminster Confession Of Faith, able to articulate a sense of calling and vision for Christian education, and cognizant with the necessity for Christians to articulate a Christian world view.
2. The school Principal and staff will be answerable to the council, and the council to the church, for the fulfilment of its task to teach the faith and the Christian world view.
3. Schools are to be committed to maintaining fee structures that enable families on average incomes to access Christian education. Realistic financial provision will be made to allow for Christian families to access a Christian education, on the principle that no child from a Christian family should be denied a Christian education on the basis of fees alone: and that this principle be operated in schools, even though it will impose some limitations on the type of facilities schools might be able to provide.
4. Schools must be established as a body corporate or company limited by guarantee to meet government regulations for receipt of funding. This means the finances and administration of every school must stand fully separate from those of the Church.
5. Constitutional provision should be made for each school, for the future possibility that the Assembly may direct Presbyterian schools to be formed into some form of association or system.

The motion was seconded and approved.

72. St Andrews Christian College

The report of St Andrews College was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Catriona Wansbrough, Principal of St Andrew's Christian College, and Rev Ghassan Tomas, a parent of the College, to the Assembly.

The Moderator invited Mrs Wansbrough to address the Assembly.

Mrs Wansborough addressed the Assembly, and asked Rev Tomas to speak of the value of Christian schooling.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Wansbrough and Mr Tomas, and led in prayer.

73. Home Mission Workers Association

The report of the HMWA was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Carolyn Wentworth and Miss Barbara Firth to the Assembly.

Mrs Wentworth addressed the Assembly, paying tribute to Miss Rion Jennings, long serving committee member and president of the HWMA, no longer able to continue in those roles on account of ill health.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Wentworth and Miss Firth for their report and led in prayer.

Rev Graham Nicholson sought leave to move that the Assembly express appreciation for the service of Miss Rion Jennings.

Leave was granted.

That the Assembly:

Express its appreciation for the long and faithful service of Miss Marion (Rion) Jennings to the Home Mission Workers Association.

The motion was seconded and approved.

74. Ad Hoc Committee on Breaking the Silence Revision

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee on Breaking the Silence Revision was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev David Palmer, moved the deliverance:

That the General Assembly:

1. Endorse the committee's action in appointing Mrs Fiona Bligh as the PCV's inaugural Training and Compliance Officer for Safe Church – PCV.
2. Pray for Fiona Bligh as she carries out this strategic role and encourage our churches and presbyteries to provide warm welcomes and every assistance as she engages in training programs.
3. Adopt the "Manual of Policy, Procedure and Practice for Safe Church – PCV (2014)".
4. Appoint the Assembly Clerk, under his current terms of employment, as Case Manager for Safe Church – PCV.
5. Appoint, subsequent to the discharge of this committee, a Panel of Reference for the Case Manager (Safe Church – PCV) to consult with whenever he considers it necessary, as follows: Brian Harvey, Kathy James and Fiona Bligh.
6. Request the Code Committee to establish draft regulations for the Panel of Reference, for approval by the 2015 General Assembly, these regulations shall include duties such as:
 - a. Consult with the Case Manager in reference to particular complaints and related procedure whenever required by him;
 - b. Assist the Case Manager in annually preparing the budget;

- c. Advise the Case Manager, when necessary, regarding his oversight of the Training and Compliance Officer (the TCO to be exempt from this specific duty).
7. Request the Selection Committee, from 2015 onwards, to include this Panel, together with a suggested tenure arrangement, as part of its regular report to the General Assembly.
8. Thank and discharge the committee.

The motion was seconded.

Mr Palmer called on the Clerk as the Committee's nominated Case Manager for Safe Church – PCV to speak.

The Clerk spoke of the work of Safe Church, and introduced Mrs Fiona Bligh, Training and Compliance Office for Safe Church – PCV, to the Assembly.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Bligh to the Assembly, and invited her to address the Assembly.

Mrs Bligh addressed the Assembly and answered questions.

The business was adjourned to take up the fixed order of the day (min. 79)

75. Result of the Ballot (min. 70)

The Moderator announced that as the result of the Ballot the General Assembly's nominee for the office of Moderator of the 2016 General Assembly of Australia is Rev Dr John P Wilson.

76. Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

The report of the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee was laid on the table and received.

Chaplains Martin de Pyle and Andrew Robinson spoke of the work of Defence Force Chaplaincy, and of the need for the people of the church to partner with Defence Force Chaplaincy by prayer, by supporting organisations such as the Bible Society which supplies literature to Defence Force personnel, and by ministers serving as chaplains.

The Convener, Rev Martin de Pyle, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Encourage congregations to pray for the safety and welfare of all who serve in our armed forces.
2. Urge congregations to keep praying for military chaplains in their unique ministry for the gospel to Australian Defence Force personnel in Australia and overseas.
3. Convey thanks to Rev Allan M Harman for the faithful leadership he provides to the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services.
4. Pray for Joshua Bouzanquet as he undertakes his in-service pastoral training at Eltham Presbyterian Church.
5. Encourage ministers to consider and apply for ministry as Defence Force chaplains, both full-time and as reservists.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led in prayer.

77. Communication 1 – Presbyterian Inland Mission, re: the work of the PIM

Communication 1 was laid on the table and received.

78. Christian Education and Nurture Committee

The report of the Christian Education and Nurture Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Douglas Robertson, spoke of the work of the committee, and asked the following portfolio holders of committee to address the Assembly:

Mr Nick Bilyj, Convener of the PYV.

Mrs Mairi Girgis, Women's Ministries of Victoria.

The Moderator led in prayer.

79. Ad Hoc Committee on Breaking the Silence Revision (min. 74)

The business was resumed.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Bligh for her address and for her competent answers to the many questions that were asked.

The motion to approve the deliverance was approved.

80. Variation of the Order of the Day

It was agreed to vary the order of the day to take up petition 3.

81. Petition 3 – from Rev Dr Peter Barclay, re: Clarinda Long Service Leave Payout

The petitioner was brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioner stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

It was agreed to adjourn the debate. (min. 114)

82. Olive Tree Travel

Mr Steven Green of Olive Tree Travel spoke about tours run by his company to Israel and Jordan, including special offers available to church leaders.

83. Privilege

It was agreed to meet in private.

Rev Neil Chambers raised a point of privilege in that a person had been allowed to advertise his private business in the Assembly.

The Moderator ruled that there had been a breach of privilege, and apologised to the Assembly.

It was agreed to resume sitting in open court.

84. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 7.00pm on Wednesday 8 October 2014, which having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
5th Sederunt: Wednesday 8 October (pm)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall,
Wednesday 8 October 2014 at 7.00pm.

85. Constitution:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. Following the reading of Galatians 5:16-26 by Moderator's Chaplain, Rev Philip Burns, the Moderator constituted the Assembly with prayer.

86. Apologies

The Clerk noted the following apologies for this sederunt:

Ministers: Peter Roberts, Hugh Price, Andrew Slater, Andrew Venn.

Elders: Elizabeth Cutler, Barbara Firth, Jennifer Homewood, Edward de Zilwa.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

87. Business Committee

The Business Convener laid on the table a proposed agenda and moved that it be approved.

The motion was seconded and approved.

88. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table minutes of the 4th sederunt.

89. Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve Fund

The report of the Ad Hoc Committee re: Sites Reserve Fund was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Andrew Bray, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

Authorise the 2015 Commission of Assembly to receive a report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Sites Reserve and deal with it accordingly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

90. Ministry Development Committee

The report of the Ministry Development Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Grant Lawry, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Give particular thanks to the men and women in the GAV Office, churches and other committees that work together in order to facilitate the harmony and variety of gifts and service to the wider church. In particular but not limited to: Mr Michael Ellison (General Manager), Mr John Vandenberg, Mrs Ros Grant, Mrs Sharee Barnett, and Rev Dr John Wilson for his perseverance and encouragement to so many through his role as Clerk of the GAV.

2. Encourage healthy and resourced congregations as well as struggling congregations to consider sister church relationships.
3. Encourage all presbyteries to use the Healthy Churches Checklist to monitor and assess any churches within its jurisdiction that present signs of a lack of 'Church Health' and work with them to seek resolutions.
4. Encourage all declining churches to address the situation immediately, seeking help from their presbytery and the MDC, before the decline becomes part of the church culture, and irreversible.
5. Encourage all aid-receiving parishes to re-assess their ministry paradigm, and to engage in assessment that can lead to discovery and consider engaging with the Ministry Tool Box and Embers to a Flame mentoring that is offered through the MDC.
6. Encourage congregations to make use of the MDC seminar resources, particularly Vision and Mission, Discipleship, Spiritual Gifts, and Forgiveness.
7. Change the stated use of the Thompson Evangelism Trust by deleting the following provision: *'The principal use of the trust is to pay the remuneration of the PCV Evangelism Officer and the secondary use of the trust is to fund Presbytery approved evangelism by congregations'* and replacing it with the following provision: *'The use of the trust is to fund evangelism'*.
8. Encourage ministers and sessions to prayerfully search out and challenge suitably gifted members of their congregations and to intentionally disciple such members, with the goal that the Lord may lead them to consider home mission service and/or training and candidating for the ministry of word and sacraments.
9. Encourage congregations to use opportunities to share their faith; to engage in evangelism training by involving the Ministry Development Committee (or other agency); and where appropriate apply for an evangelism grant from the Ministry Development Committee for evangelistic activities or events.
10. Encourage presbyteries with vacancies to consider an Intentional Interim Minister where such a ministry would be beneficial.
11. Encourage vacant churches and the presbyteries of jurisdiction to consider a District Interim Moderator to provide consistent and efficient guidance in their time of vacancy and to release Interim Moderators to focus on the congregation that has called them.
12. Approve the revised cost-structure for a District Interim Moderator where the parishes will pay an appropriate proportion (equivalent to costs expected to be paid for a local Interim Moderator) towards the costs of the DIM and the MDC bears all other costs including remuneration.
13. Give thanks to God for the faithful service of Rev Grant Lawry as convener of the Ministry Development Committee, and pray that God will continue to bless him richly in his ministry as he retires from this position.
14. Give thanks to the Lord for the faithful ministry of the Ministry Development Director, Rev Dr Robert Carner.
15. Thank Mr Ben Palmer for his secretarial and general assistance and support to the director and committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

91. Exit Student Committee

The report of the Exit Student Committee was laid on the table and received.

92. Selection Committee

The report of the Selection Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Cameron Garrett, moved the deliverance, including additional clause 8:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to Almighty God for the operations of the Assembly's Committees, Boards and Councils in the 2013/2014 Assembly year.
2. Remind all committees that the Selection Committee must be notified of changes to committees, together with nominations for filling casual vacancies (see 5.32).
3. Confirm the appointment of those members appointed by the Selection Committee to fill casual vacancies on committees since the 2013 Assembly.
4. Confirm the following exception under the Nine Year Rule (5.28)
Mr D Wright – Social Services Committee (additional 12 months)
5. Appoint all those nominated to committees, boards, councils and other bodies and positions as in the Selection Committee's supplementary report.
6. Thank all committee members who have served in the past year.
7. Thank all outgoing conveners for their work as conveners of their respective committees.
 - a. Rev Graeme Weber (Moderator's Committee)
 - b. Rev Grant Lawry (Ministry Development Committee)
 - c. Rev Neil Chambers (Theological Education Committee)
 - d. Rev Dr John Woodward (Maintenance of the Ministry Committee)
 - e. Rev Graham Nicholson (Records Committee)
 - f. Rev Don Elliott (Church Planting Committee)
 - g. Rev Douglas Robertson (Christian Education and Nurture Committee)
8. Instruct the Deputy-Clerk to inform the Clerk of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia that the nominee of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for the office of Moderator of the 2016 General Assembly of Australia is the Rev Dr John P. Wilson.

The motion was seconded and approved.

93. Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

The report of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Miles Fagan, moved the deliverance as a whole.

Questions were asked.

The business was adjourned. (min.109)

94. Adjournment

The Assembly adjourned to meet at 9.30am on Thursday 9 October 2014, which, having been duly intimated, the Moderator closed the sederunt with the benediction.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

**PROCEEDINGS
OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
of the
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
6th Sederunt: Thursday 9 October (am)**

At Melbourne, and in the Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall, Thursday 9 October 2014 at 9.30am.

95. Constitution:

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria met pursuant to adjournment. The Moderator, Rt Rev David Brown, constituted the Assembly with prayer.

96. Assembly Expositor

The Assembly Expositor, Rt Rev David Cook, led the Assembly in the third of his Assembly Expositions, "The Hidden Hand", based on Acts 10.

The Moderator thanked Rt Rev David Cook for his expositions.

97. Thanks to Assembly Expositor

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Extend its sincere thanks to its Assembly Expositor, Rt Rev David Cook, for his passionate and stimulating exposition and application of the Word of God to our hearts and minds to increase our confidence in God and the gospel, and our fervour, zeal and persistence in gospel ministry.

The motion was seconded and approved with acclamation.

98. Apologies

The Deputy Clerk noted the following apologies for this sederunt:

Ministers: David Assender, Philip Daffy, Heath Easton, Marvin Hagans, Peter Owen, Hugh Price, Andrew Slater, John Stasse.

Elders: John Angelico, John Lagerwey, Edward de Zilwa.

The Deputy Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the apologies.

The motion was seconded and approved.

99. Business Committee

The Business Convener, Rev Dr Jared Hood, laid on the table a proposed agenda and moved that it be approved.

Rev Mark Smith asked the Moderator to rule on the competency of notice of motion F 34.

It was agreed to meet in private.

The Moderator ruled that the motion was competent.

Rev Mark Smith moved:

That the Assembly:

Depart from the Moderator's ruling.

The motion was seconded and disapproved on a show of hands.

Dissent:

Rev Mark Smith

It was agreed to resume sitting in open court.

The motion to approve the agenda was seconded and approved.

100. Minutes of the Previous Sederunt

The Deputy Clerk laid on the table minutes of the 5th sederunt.

101. ACCESS Ministries

The report of the Presbyterian Representatives on the ACCESS Ministries Council was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Alison Thomas and Mr Rob Ward, General Manager of Development and Communications, ACCESS Ministries.

Mrs Alison Thomas introduced Mr Rob Ward, who addressed the Assembly on the work of CRE in schools.

The Moderator thanked Mr Ward.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Thank Dr Evonne Paddison, recently retired CEO of ACCESS Ministries, for her sterling and persevering leadership of this vital gospel ministry for a number of years during which she showed godly restraint and spiritual strength despite rigorous opposition from secular forces.
2. Pray for her recovery of health.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator led in prayer.

(2) Rev Ken Martin moved:

That the Assembly:

Convey to the Premier, Hon. Dr Dennis Napthine, and to the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Daniel Andrews, our protest against government policy which now authorises State School principals to veto special religious instruction in their schools, usurping the entitlement of parents to make a choice, an entitlement which had been respected for over 140 years of voluntary religious instruction in Victoria's state schools; this new power of principals is so discretionary as to be non-responsible in practice, and without avenue of appeal.

The motion was seconded.

It was agreed to adjourn the debate on Rev Ken Martin's motion (min. 107).

(3) Rev Gary Wentworth moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Acknowledge with thanks the work of ACCESS Ministries (ACCESS) over many years in facilitating the delivery of Christian Religious Education to state primary schools in Victoria.
2. Record its thanks to the many Presbyterians in Victoria who have voluntarily, over those years, given generously of their time and personal finances to help facilitate the CRE / SRI programs.
3. Note with concern the demands placed on SRI volunteers to enter into a compulsory partnership program should they wish to continue as an accredited SRI teacher in July 2015.
4. Note with concern the recent ultimatums issued to ACCESS by the Uniting Church in Australia concerning that denomination's continued involvement as a "Supporting Church", and in particular its demand that Special Religious Education (SRI) materials be "theologically broad", as well as noting its stated desire to work towards the inclusion of General Religious Education (taken to mean multi-faith) in schools, which can only be perceived as having the effect of "undermining" the SRI program.

5. Express great concern that SRI materials not be modified in any way to accommodate such demands.
6. Encourage ACCESS to ensure all SRI materials issued by it in the future be biblically sound, consistent with the belief that the Word of God which is contained in the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments is the only rule of faith and practice, emphasising the Bible's inspiration, authority and sufficiency, and that materials contain nothing that would be inconsistent with the doctrine of the Trinity, the true deity and true humanity of Jesus Christ, the necessity of Jesus' atonement for sin, the resurrection of the body, justification by faith alone, the need for the new birth, the personal and visible return of Jesus Christ, the Great Commission, as well as the requirement that Christians live moral lives in accordance with God's Word.
7. Request that ACCESS ensures that all teaching offered under the auspices of the ACCESS Ministries Training Institute (AMTI) be consistent with the above.

The motion was seconded and approved.

102. Theological Education Committee

The report of the Theological Education Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev David Palmer, moved the deliverance as a whole.

The motion was seconded.

The business was adjourned to take up the fixed order of the day (min. 104)

103. Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union (PWMU)

The report of the PWMU was laid on the table and received.

The Moderator welcomed Mrs Esther Vayne, President of the PWMU, and Mrs Rosalie Fleming, Secretary of the PWMU, to the Assembly.

The Moderator invited to address the Assembly.

Mrs Vayne addressed the Assembly on the work of the PWMU over the past year.

The Moderator expressed appreciation for the work of the PWMU, thanked Mrs Vayne for her report and led in prayer.

104. Theological Education Committee (min. 102)

The business was resumed.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-7 were approved.

Clause 8 was approved.

Clause 9 (including additional sub-clause j) was approved.

Clauses 10 and 11 were approved.

Clauses 12 and 13 were approved with acclamation.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for Principal Rev Peter Hastie, lecturers, part time lecturers, the training officer along with the office and library staff for their faithful service to the College during the past year.
2. Express its deep appreciation to Rev Neil Chambers for his leadership of the committee over the past six years.
3. Request the committee to report to the 2015 General Assembly on development of a strategic plan for the College that covers staffing, facilities

- and funding as well as meeting Australian College of Theology and Government obligations.
4. Request all ministers and sessions to bring the needs of the College regularly before their congregations, including earnest prayer for all aspects of the College, including the development of the strategic plan and the necessary financial resources in support of the strategic plan.
 5. Commend the annual observance of College Thanksgiving and continuing financial support for the College Building and Library Funds, both of which have tax exempt status.
 6. Request presbyteries to study the document *Candidate Attributes* and to advise the TEC (secretary: Rev Kevin Maxwell) by the 30 April 2015 of any suggestions for improvement with the committee to present such amended document to the 2015 General Assembly for its approval as a guide for Presbytery and TEC assessment of potential candidates as to suitability for pastoral ministry.
 7. Approve a variation in terms of settlement for faculty members so as to increase the limit on manse energy to \$3,000 p.a. as from the 1 July 2015.
 8. Adopt the following Job Description for Lecturer in New Testament Studies at the PTC:

Job Description for Lecturer in New Testament Studies at the PTC

1. Position Summary

The Presbyterian Theological College (PTC), the ministry training college of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is seeking a lecturer in New Testament Studies. The PTC is a reformed and evangelical institution which has a vital role in developing, disseminating and supporting faithful gospel ministry in Melbourne, regional Victoria and beyond. The Assembly, through the Theological Education Committee (TEC), the body entrusted with the oversight of the College by the Victorian Assembly, is looking for a faithful Christian, academically able in the disciplines of Greek and New Testament studies and with experience in pastoral ministry, who can help students understand the New Testament and preach it today as God's Word. A lecturer at the PTC will also have a role as a theological resource to his brothers in parish ministry.

2. Responsibilities

The lecturer in New Testament will be responsible, under the Principal of the PTC, for delivery of lectures in the area of New Testament studies and New Testament Greek, teaching principally the Greek and New Testament courses of the ACT.

A lecturer must

- Set an example in life and ministry to the students.
- Contribute to the well-being of the college community.
- Be involved in and represent the College's interests in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- Undertake administrative tasks delegated by the Principal.
- Stay abreast of educational developments and be willing to be innovative in the delivery of his courses and in their assessment.

These tasks will involve attendance at faculty meetings, participation in Australian College of Theology meetings in his area, and participation in Presbytery and Assembly.

3. Attributes

- Able to meet the qualifications of an Elder as described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, i.e. demonstrating a mature Christian character.
- Prayerful.
- Fully committed to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.
- A capacity to communicate clearly.
- Ability to relate to people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

**4. Qualifications
Essential**

- Qualified in New Testament at Research Masters level or above.
- Ideally already possessing or working toward a doctorate and be interested in writing journal articles and/or books
- A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia or willing to satisfy the requirements of the rules of the General Assembly of Australia relative to the reception of ministers from other churches.
- Pastoral experience.
- A wholehearted commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith, as read in the light of the Declaratory Statement of 1901, as a systematic exposition of the teaching of Scripture.

Achievements and Capabilities

- Demonstrated ability to teach in his discipline, ideally with some experience in curriculum design and assessment.
- Educational experience with an awareness of different modes of delivery of courses.
- Understanding of the Australian higher educational context, especially of the expectations of the Australian College of Theology.
- Involvement in discipling and training others in ministry skills.
- Demonstrated capacity to work in a team.
- Experience in the activities of Presbytery and Assembly.
- Availability to preach at weekends and represent the College, as well as teaching evening classes.
- Administrative experience with an ability to share in the administrative work of a tertiary institution.

9. Declare the Lecturer in New Testament Studies terms of settlement to be as follows:

- a. 1.05 times the minister's minimum remuneration package as defined in the annual MMC deliverance to the Assembly.
- b. manse provided or benefit as set by the Theological Education Committee.
- c. telephone rent plus all calls.
- d. superannuation at the ministerial rate.

- e. six month's paid study leave during each fourth and each seventh year of appointment or alternatively twelve month's paid study leave during each seventh year of appointment.
 - f. removal costs paid by the Theological Education Committee within Australia but a negotiated figure if from overseas.
 - g. annual leave equivalent to ministerial annual leave as defined in the annual MMC deliverance to the Assembly, currently five weeks.
 - h. workcover.
 - i. payment of manse energy bills up to \$3,000 per annum as a non cash benefit.
 - j. any other provisions the Assembly may determine.
10. Request the committee to bring a recommendation on the appointment of a lecturer in New Testament Studies to the 2015 Commission of Assembly, should the committee be ready to make a recommendation at that time.
 11. As a consequence of the large unbudgeted increase in the number of candidates, approve additional to the 2014/15 budget further scholarship expenditure of \$90,000 (2073.18) and \$6,000 (2075.18) in 2014/15.
 12. Give thanks to God for the Training Officer, Rev Nello Barbieri, and his contribution to the culture of training gospel workers to train gospel workers across the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for the past seven years.
 13. Express its appreciation to Rev Nello Barbieri for his thoughtful care, personal encouragement and gospel focussed discipleship of candidates as they begin, train and transition through the College and into ministry.

The motion was seconded and approved.

105. Retirement – Mrs Rosslyn Grant

The Clerk welcomed PCV Office Staff, Mrs Rosslyn Grant, Mrs Sharee Barnett, Mr Michael Ellison and Mr John Vandenberg to the Assembly and spoke of Mrs Rosslyn Grant's valued service to the church over many years.

The Moderator thanked Mrs Grant for her ministry through her work in the church office, and presented her with a token of the gratitude of the church.

Mrs Grant responded.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Record its sincere thanks for the loyal and dedicated service to the church carried out by Mrs Rosslyn D Grant for the past 29 years as Administrative Assistant for the General Assembly Office of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

The motion was seconded and approved with acclamation.

106. Variation of the Order of the Day

It was agreed to vary the order of day to resume debate on notice of motion B 32.

107. ACCESS Ministries (min. 101 (2))

Rev Ken Martin sought leave to vary his motion.

Leave was granted.

Rev Ken Martin moved:

That the Assembly:

Convey to the Premier, Hon. Dr Dennis Napthine, and to the Leader of the Opposition, Hon. Daniel Andrews, our protest against government policy which now enables state school principals, if they wish, to stop special religious instruction in their schools for plausible but inadequate reasons of logistics, thus

overriding the choice of parents, a choice which had been respected for over 140 years of voluntary religious instruction in Victoria's state schools.
The motion was seconded and approved.

108. Church and Nation Committee (min. 68)

The business was resumed.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were approved.

Clause 3 was moved and seconded.

The Moderator was asked to rule on the competency of notice of motion C 25.

The Moderator ruled that the proposed amendment was competent.

In the absence of Elder John Angelico, Rev Bruce Riding moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend clause 3 of the deliverance of the Church and Nation Committee so that it reads as follows [with the changes marked in bold italics]:

3. Adopt the Refugee Statement as follows:

Refugee Statement

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria acknowledges:

- the challenges presented to governments by those seeking refuge by irregular means;
- it is lawful and prudent for **Australia** to maintain its sovereignty;
- ***those seeking refuge in Australia are of uncertain status until such time as their claims can be assessed, their identities confirmed and their bona fides established;***
- ***a person moves from an uncertain status as one seeking asylum to being granted refugee status via a process in accordance with international refugee protocols;***
- ***not all persons seeking asylum will be granted refugee status;***
- ***certain behaviours and attitudes indicate that a person is not genuinely fleeing danger, or are inconsistent with being a victim of persecution; such can include (but are not limited to):***
 - ***abandoning identification and travel documents just prior to arriving in Australian territorial waters***
 - ***embarking for Australia from a place which does not represent a danger to them***
 - ***deceiving authorities in any way, and/or attempting to force the Australian government to circumvent normal procedures in order to grant refugee status (Josh ch 9) eg. by endangering the lives of travellers, self-harm, hunger strikes, violence, riot, affray or malicious damage to property***
 - ***abusing the legal process in order to delay repatriation or a final decision to deny refugee status***
 - ***refusing to acknowledge the Australian way of life, the responsibilities of residency, and the temporary nature of their refugee status***
- ***such behaviours and attitudes will render a person ineligible for refugee status.***

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria believes:

- it is incumbent on all citizens to promote the welfare of those

- within their territory;
- Christians have a duty to love and care for those in need (Phil 2:4);
- the treatment of asylum seekers should be governed by God's command to show kindness to those in need ***whilst administering true justice*** (Zech 7:9-10)

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria urges governments to:

- where ***practicable***, both process and accommodate asylum seekers domestically;
- ensure asylum seekers are treated humanely;
- keep processing time-frames reasonable;
- avoid unnecessary delays to legitimacy claims;
- provide access to ***a limited range of*** benefits and privileges commensurate with recognised ***temporary residents, ONLY*** when and where refugee status is granted
- ***ensure that refugees return to their home country once the threat of danger has been removed (Matt 2:13-15).***

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria commits to:

- address the physical and spiritual needs of refugees as opportunity and resources permit;
- give 'honour to whom honour is owed' (Rom 13:7 ESV);
- pray for 'kings and all who are in high positions' (1Tim 2:2 ESV).

The motion was seconded.

Rev David Palmer moved the previous question.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Clauses 4-7 were approved.

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Circulate to all presbyteries the article 'Same-sex debacle' from AP (Autumn 2014), and the Marriage Act Options Paper for consideration and report to the Church and Nation Committee by 30 June 2015, for report to the 2015 General Assembly.
2. Adopt the Human Rights Statement, as follows:

Human Rights Statement

1. All human beings are made in God's image and likeness and are therefore afforded great dignity and intrinsic worth (Gen1:26ff). Being made by him and for him, human beings, along with all creation, exist for his glory (Col 1:16; Rom 11:36).
2. Because humans beings are image bearers, God's moral law places duties on them with respect to how they treat other 'human beings' (Exod 20:3-17; Deut 5:7-22 and Matt 22:36-40; 23:39). We can deduce from these duties what might be called human rights. For example, the right to worship (1st to 3rd), work and rest (4th); the right to a mother and father (5th); the right to life (6th); the right to be married (7th); the right to property (8th, 10th); the right to a fair trial (9th). The Presbyterian Church of Victoria believes that, for human rights to be valid, they need to be:

- Universal – they apply to all people at all time.
- Absolute – they cannot be abolished.
- Non-derogable – because they are absolute they cannot be limited in any way, at any time, for any reason, even in time of a national emergency.

Human rights are different from, and take precedence over, selective rights. Selective rights are those rights that only apply to certain people, at certain times, in certain ways (e.g. rights based on ethnicity or sexuality).

3. Human rights include the right of life, liberty and security (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 3). The right of life and security includes the right not to be killed, tortured, crippled, aborted, euthanased, eugenically removed or subjected to involuntary experimentation. The right to liberty includes the fundamental right to freedom of religion, conscience and speech (UDHR, Article 19). And, while not exhaustive, we recognise other human rights like the right to work and rest, own property and be given a fair trial (UDHR, Article 6-11, 17, 23-24).
4. Because human rights are ultimately derived from God, states do not establish human rights; rather, they recognise them. Established, recognised laws should enshrine universal human rights, and these are best upheld by a state with both limited powers and the ability to execute the rule of law. Accordingly, the state, instituted by God, should not be a terror to good conduct (Rom 13:1-7), and it is the role of the church to humbly remind the magistrate of this duty (WCF 31:5).

3. Adopt the Refugee Statement as follows:

Refugee Statement

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria acknowledges:

- the challenges presented to governments by those seeking refuge by irregular means;
- it is lawful and prudent for a country to maintain its sovereignty.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria believes:

- it is incumbent on all citizens to promote the welfare of those within their territory;
- Christians have a duty to love and care for those in need (Phil 2:4);
- the treatment of asylum seekers should be governed by God's command to show kindness to those in need (Zech 7:9-10).

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria urges governments to:

- where possible, both process and accommodate asylum seekers domestically;
- ensure asylum seekers are treated humanely;
- keep processing time-frames reasonable;
- avoid unnecessary delays to legitimacy claims;

- provide access to all benefits and privileges commensurate with recognised citizens when and where refugee status is granted.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria commits to:

- address the physical and spiritual needs of refugees as opportunity and resources permit;
 - give 'honour to whom honour is owed' (Rom 13:7 ESV);
 - pray for 'kings and all who are in high positions' (1Tim 2:2 ESV).
4. Commend the 2015 *Religion in the Public Square Colloquium* (7-8 August) to the church and request that presbyteries and sessions promote it among their congregations and encourage all to attend where possible.
 5. Thank retiring members of the Church and Nation Committee, Elder Norm Sharp and Rev Peter Barclay, for their years of outstanding service to the committee and the church.
 6. Commend the plight of persecuted Christians to the church by requesting frequent, specific prayer, both private and public, and that congregations seriously consider diaconal support of particular communities or people groups in distress, whether domestic or abroad.
 7. Encourage presbyteries, sessions, and congregations to continue actively engaging with governments, and their communities, to uphold what is morally good.

The motion was seconded and approved.

109. Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee (min. 93)

The business was resumed.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1-12 were approved.

The Convener sought leave to fall from Clause 13.

Leave was not granted.

Clause 13 was moved and seconded.

Rev Chris Seriweera moved the previous question.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The deliverance as whole as amended was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Give thanks to God for the faithful work of all our paid and voluntary chaplains and ask for his blessing on their continued labours in a variety of fields in the coming year.
2. Pray for Mrs Christine Le Page and Mr Ian Waller as they continue to flourish in their Paediatric pastoral care roles at Northern and Western Hospitals respectively.
3. Give thanks to God for the talent that he has provided us with on the HCCC, in particular for Rev Phillip Chang as he brings his wealth of pastoral care experience to the committee in the months ahead.
4. Praise God for the overwhelming generosity of PCV congregations in contributing to this year's Good Friday Appeal and for grace and wisdom for the committee in the faithful administration of these funds.
5. Pray for Mrs Suzanne Oakes as she continues to study CPE at the Austin Hospital and puts her study into practice in clinical care at the Royal Children's Hospital.

6. Thank God for Mrs Anne Elliott in her role as Ministers Family Camp Co-ordinator and for the practical wisdom and energy she brings to the task each year.
7. Pray for AFES; for the outreach, pastoral care and training of students that occurs.
8. Pray for God's leading and guidance in HCCC's ongoing engagement with external chaplaincy providers and government linked organisations including SHV, ACCESS Ministries and the Victorian Council of Churches.
9. Encourage and pursue training opportunities with Sports Chaplaincy Australia through their Centre Bounce Teams to engage our communities at the coal face.
10. Give thanks for the provision of suitable office and meeting spaces for HCCC at both Heathmont House and the Scots' Church, Melbourne.
11. Give thanks for many opportunities for collaboration with other Assembly committees in the mutual support of important denominational work and pray for God's help and blessing on all such endeavours in the future.
12. Continue to provide encouragement for those ministers who are participants in the Pastor's Renewal Retreat Group programs.

The motion was seconded and approved.

110. METRO Committee

The report of the METRO Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Elder Andrew May, moved the deliverance.

It was agreed to take the deliverance clause by clause.

Clauses 1 and 2 were approved.

Clause 3 was approved on a show of hands.

Dissent:

Rev Michael Wishart

The deliverance as a whole was moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Pray for the ministry of METRO and youthMETRO.
2. Pray for the trainees presently engaged and all those who will be training, God-willing, in 2015 and beyond.
3. Approve the Memorandum of Understanding between the PCV METRO Committee and MTS.

Memorandum of Understanding between the Board of Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) and PCV METRO

Background

- A. The PCV METRO traineeship is designed to give the PCV METRO trainee on-the-job ministry training in accordance with the agreed PCV METRO traineeship curriculum.
- B. The PCV METRO Training Centre is the church or organisation where the ministry traineeship takes place.
- C. Ordinarily a PCV METRO Training Centre will have at least one PCV METRO trainer and at least one PCV METRO coach, who is usually the PCV Training Officer.
- D. The PCV METRO Training Centre's activities will be under the guidance of the PCV METRO Committee and the PCV METRO convener. These activities will be reported to the MTS Director.

Obligations of MTS

The MTS Board agrees to set policies for the relationship with PCV METRO, and to provide infrastructure to support PCV METRO and its Training Centres.

Obligations of the PCV METRO Training Centre:

2. The PCV METRO Training Centre agrees to adhere to the following:
 - a. The PCV METRO Training Centre must be registered as a religious organisation.
 - b. The PCV METRO Training Centre will provide the PCV METRO trainee with a PCV METRO trainer for the duration of the apprenticeship.
 - c. The PCV METRO Training Centre will officially recognise the PCV METRO trainee as having authority in matters of religious practice.
 - d. The PCV METRO Training Centre will publicly commission the PCV METRO trainee in a ceremony recognising the PCV METRO trainee as a person qualified to teach, lead and minister.
 - e. The PCV METRO Training Centre will ensure that all PCV METRO trainees who may have unsupervised contact with children, complete child protection declarations and obligations as prescribed in the State/Territory Legislation relevant to their ministry.
 - f. The PCV METRO Training Centre will ensure that the PCV METRO trainee is trained with regards to the denomination's Professional Standards Policies and Procedures (e.g. Child Safety, Misconduct, Grievance Policy).
 - g. The PCV METRO Training Centre will ensure that Work Cover insurance cover is provided to protect the PCV METRO trainee.
 - h. The PCV METRO Training Centre must immediately act in accordance with the 'Safe Church - PCV' policy when any incidents or alleged incidents of the PCV METRO trainee's misconduct or abuse (including those affecting an adult). Moreover they must immediately report this to the METRO convener who will in turn inform the MTS Director.

Obligations of the METRO trainers

3. Under the guidance of the PCV METRO Committee, the PCV METRO trainers must:
 - a. Care, guide, teach and walk beside the trainee through all stages of their spiritual journey.
 - b. Provide regular feedback, encouragement and correction to the trainee.
 - c. Train trainees in accordance with the agreed METRO Traineeship Curriculum developed by PCV METRO in consultation with MTS.

- d. Train trainees for a minimum of 37.5 hours per week for the two (2) year traineeship. Twelve (12) hours per week are to be used for curriculum-based training as outlined in the METRO Traineeship Curriculum as agreed with by MTS. The balance of the required minimum hours per week is to be used by the trainee for hands-on practical training as outlined in the METRO Traineeship Curriculum and agreed by the PCV METRO trainer.
- e. Meet with the trainee at the frequency agreed upon and for the period agreed upon.
- f. Develop detailed Ministry Development Plans for the trainee every six (6) months.
- g. Conduct 6-monthly qualitative surveys as developed by PCV METRO in consultation with MTS, the results of which will be shared with MTS head office for comparison with feedback from the wider MTS network.
- h. Attend the MTS Training Days approved by PCV METRO.
- i. Attend the annual State-based recruitment conference.
- j. Attend the MTS national G8 annual conference or equivalent.

Finances

- 4. The PCV METRO Committee must ensure that each PCV METRO Training Centre officially provides all of the PCV METRO trainees at their centre with a training wage as outlined in the PCV METRO “Pathways” documents for the duration of their traineeship.
- 5. The letter of offer to the trainee must clearly specify financial information for the sake of the trainee and the Training Centre.
- 6. PCV Metro Committee will pay the registration fee of each PCV METRO trainee to MTS.

Dispute Resolution

- 7. Both parties (PCV METRO and MTS) shall seek to follow the biblical model for conflict resolution given by Jesus in Matthew 18. If conflict situations arise, seek to resolve the matter with the person concerned at the earliest possible time. If this does not resolve the conflict, we will go to a mutually agreed Christian mediator.

Termination

- 8. If at any time either party wants to terminate this agreement, the process shall be as follows:
 - a. If the PCV METRO Committee wishes to terminate this memorandum, at least three (3) month's written notice must be given to the MTS Director.
 - b. If MTS wishes to terminate this memorandum, at least three (3) month's written notice must be given to the PCV METRO Committee.

Agreed on behalf of the MTS Board

Agreed on behalf of the PCV
METRO Committee

By _____
(Director, MTS)

By _____
(Convener of the PCV METRO
Committee)

Position/Title _____

Signed _____

Signed _____

Date _____

Date _____

To be reviewed in January 2017

The motion was seconded and approved.

111. Records Committee

The report of the Records Committee was laid on the table and received.

The Convener, Rev Graham Nicholson, moved the deliverance:

That the Assembly:

1. Note that the records of the Presbyteries of Ballarat, Melbourne North, Flinders, Gippsland and Geelong have been examined.
2. Declare that where minutes reports and correspondence are stored and circulated in electronic form, Presbytery clerks must keep at least one copy of minutes and other materials in printed form so that attestable minutes are always available.

The motion was seconded and approved.

112. Liaison Officers for Persons Leaving “The Fellowship”

The report of the Liaison Officers for Persons Leaving “The Fellowship” was laid on the table and received.

Rev Don Elliott moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Note the positive effect the Assembly’s financial provision has brought to those seeking help in dealing with issues arising from their connection with “The Fellowship”.
2. Place the Liaison Officers under the oversight of the Safe Church Unit.

The motion was seconded and approved.

113. Privilege

The Clerk raised a point of privilege in that during earlier business (minute 108) the previous question had been moved seconded and approved before debate had begun.

The Moderator ruled that there had been a breach of privilege, and apologised on behalf of the Assembly to Rev Bruce Riding.

Mr Riding accepted the apology.

114. Petition 3 – from Rev Dr Peter Barclay, re: Clarinda Long Service Leave payout (min. 81)

The business was resumed.

Questions continued.

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

(2) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare the pastoral arrangement of Mr Andrew Forrester as a “church worker” at Clarinda, during the past 12 years, fits the description made under Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Regulation 24(e).

The motion was seconded and approved.

(3) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Request the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to reconsider the question of the Clarinda Long Service Leave grant in the light of this declaration (above).

The motion was seconded and approved.

(4) Rev Michael Jensen moved:

That the Assembly:

Recognise the difficulty of the Committee in reaching a conclusion on this matter without the required information from Presbytery and parish in relation to terms of settlement at Clarinda.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

(5) Rev Mark Smith moved:

That the Assembly:

Urge presbyteries to ensure clarity regarding conditions of appointment of non-ministerial, non-home mission ministry workers in congregations, and encourage the use of employment agreements as provided by the Trusts Corporation/Board of Investment to ensure that clarity.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioner of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Declare the pastoral arrangement of Mr Andrew Forrester as a “church worker” at Clarinda, during the past 12 years, fits the description made under Maintenance of the Ministry Committee Regulation 24(e).
3. Request the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to reconsider the question of the Clarinda Long Service Leave grant in the light of this declaration (above).
4. Urge presbyteries to ensure clarity regarding conditions of appointment of non-ministerial, non-home mission ministry workers in congregations, and encourage the use of employment agreements as provided by the Trusts Corporation/Board of Investment to ensure that clarity.

The Moderator removed the petitioner from the bar.

115. Petition 4 – from Rev Scott Kroeger, re: Police Chaplaincy

(1) The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

In accord with Rule 5:78 agree to shorten the 30-day advance notice rule and to deal with Petition 4 from Rev Scott Kroeger regarding Victoria Police Chaplaincy.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The petitioner was brought to the bar.

The petition was taken as read and received.

The petitioner stated the petition.

Questions were asked.

The Clerk moved:

(2) That the Assembly:

Grant the prayer of the petition.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Clerk moved:

(3) That the Assembly:

Refer the petition to the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee for its consideration.

The motion was seconded.

(4) Rev Ken Brown moved:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by adding the words “and request it to bring a report and or proposal to the 2015 Commission of Assembly”, so that the motion would read

That the Assembly:

Refer the petition to the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee for its consideration and request it to bring a report and or proposal to the 2015 Commission of Assembly.

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The amended motion was seconded and approved.

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the petitioner of the Assembly’s decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Grant the prayer of the petition.
2. Refer the petition to the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee for its consideration and request it to bring a report and or proposal to the 2015 Commission of Assembly.

The Moderator removed the petitioner from the bar.

116. Conciliation Committee

The report of the Conciliation Committee was laid on the table and received.

117. Proposed Special Commission to deal with appeals

The Clerk sought leave to move a motion to appoint a Special Commission of the Assembly to deal with these appeals.

Leave was not granted.

118. Declaration re: Appeals by Very Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang

The Clerk sought leave to move that the Assembly declare that Appeal 1 and Appeal 2 by Very Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang are effectively the same, and therefore consider the outcome of Appeal 1 to be the outcome of Appeal 2.

Leave was granted.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Declare that Appeal 1 and Appeal 2 by Very Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang are effectively the same, and therefore consider the outcome of Appeal 1 to be the outcome of Appeal 2.

The motion was seconded and approved.

119. Appeal 1 – Very Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang, re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 19 February 2014.

It was agreed to sit in private.

It was agreed to receive the documents relating to appeals 1 and 2.

The parties were called to the bar.

The record of the case in the Presbytery was taken as read.

The appellants were heard.

The respondents were heard.

The appellants were heard in reply.

Questions were asked.

The parties were removed from the bar.

The Assembly heard from its Special Judicial Committee.

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Dismiss the appeals.

The motion was seconded and approved on a show of hands.

Dissent:

Rev John Cho

Rev Matt James

Rev Ken Martin

Rev Bruce Riding

Announcement of Final Decision

The Moderator advised the appellants of the Assembly's decision as follows:

That the Assembly had resolved to:

1. Dismiss their appeal; and
2. That in accordance with the Assembly's resolution that the outcome of Appeal 1 be the outcome of Appeal 2, Appeal 2 had also been dismissed.

The Moderator removed the appellants from the bar.

It was agreed to resume sitting in open court.

The Moderator led in prayer.

120. Application by the Trusts Corporation to the Supreme Court re: Scots' Church Trust Deed

Elder Colin Morrow moved:

That the Assembly:

In the light of 1 Cor 6:1–8, where God's word says that we have the required competency to judge the matter within the church (1 Cor 6:2b) and since both parties are made up of members who are all communicant members of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria:

1. Request the Trusts Corporation to cease all legal action in secular jurisdiction relating to the dispute with Scots Church Property Trust;
2. Request the Trusts Corporation and the Scots Church Property Trust to be reconciled in love to honour and glorify Christ;
3. Ask God to open the floodgates of heaven and replenish the money stores which are necessary to complete the mission he has given his church to do on this earth.

The motion was seconded and disapproved.

121. Communication 2 – from Rev Stuart Bonnington, Clerk of the Assembly of the PCWA, re: thanks for grants for church planting in WA

Communication 2 was laid on the table and received.

122. Communication 4 – from Rev Canon Dr Evonne Paddison, CEO ACCESS ministries, re: thanks for gift in support of ministry in schools

Communication 4 was laid on the table and received.

123. Communication 5 – from Mr Lyle Shelton, Managing Director, Australian Christian Lobby, re: thanks for contribution to the ministry's work

Communication 5 was laid on the table and received.

124. Communication 6 – from Rev Dr Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA, re: GAA Declaration on Baptism

Communication 6 was laid on the table and received.

125. Communication 7 – from Rev Dr Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA, re: GAA Committee restructure

Communication 7 was laid on the table and received.

126. Communication 8 – from Rev Dr Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA, re: Code of Discipline remit

Communication 8 was laid on the table and received.

127. Rt Rev David and Mrs Roslyn Brown

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Express its best wishes to its Moderator and his wife, for God's blessing on them both for the coming year.

The motion was seconded and approved.

128. Commission to Confirm Minutes

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the Moderator and the Clerks of Assembly a Special Commission to scrutinise the minutes of this Assembly with the power to make any necessary corrections and to confirm them, and that a copy thereof be sent to members of the Assembly.

The motion was seconded and approved.

129. Appointment of Commission of Assembly

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

1. Appoint a Commission of the General Assembly consisting of the members of this Assembly, with a quorum of sixteen (eight of whom must be ministers), representing at least four Presbyteries.
2. Empower this Commission of Assembly to consider and determine every matter referred to it by any decision or order of the General Assembly, and instruct the Commission to be careful to follow all instructions given to it by the General Assembly. With the exception of urgent matters, as permitted in clause three below, the Commission is not entitled to take up any matter that has not been referred to it.
3. Empower this Commission of Assembly to consider and determine all matters that have emerged since the last meeting of the Assembly that are considered urgent and in need of executive or judicial action. In taking up

these emergent matters the Commission is to consider the best interests of the church on every occasion.

4. Charge this Commission of Assembly in all its actings and decisions to proceed according to the rules and constitution of this church. For all its actings and decisions, this Commission is accountable to and censurable by the next General Assembly.
5. Charge this Commission of Assembly that it must not enact, amend or repeal any rules or regulations of the General Assembly nor enter into the consideration of any overture or motion proposing legislation.
6. Direct the Commission of Assembly to submit its minutes duly confirmed, and relevant papers, to the next General Assembly through the Clerk.
7. Instruct the Commission to meet and convene in the Werner Brodbeck Hall, within the Assembly Hall, 156 Collins Street, Melbourne, Tuesday 5 May, 2015, at 10:30am, or at such other times and places as the Moderator of the General Assembly shall determine.

The motion was seconded and approved.

130. Ballot Committee Discharged

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Thank and discharge the Ballot Committee.

The motion was seconded and approved.

131. Appointment of Next Assembly

The Clerk moved:

That the Assembly:

Appoint the next General Assembly to convene within The Scots' Church, Melbourne, on Monday, 5 October, 2015, at 7:30pm for the opening sederunt, and on Tuesday 6 October 2015, at 9.30am for a Communion Service, and thereafter for business in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall.

The motion was seconded and approved.

132. Dissolution

The business of the Assembly now being concluded, the Moderator intimated that the next General Assembly would meet within The Scots Church Melbourne on Monday, 5 October 2015, at 7.30pm for the opening sederunt, and on Tuesday 6 October 2015, at 9.30am for a Communion Service, and thereafter for business in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall.

After a brief address and the singing of verses 4-6 of Rejoice 304, the Moderator dissolved the Assembly with prayer.

CLERKS:
J P Wilson
P W Phillips

I certify that the minutes of 6, 7, 8 and 9 of October 2014, having been carefully scrutinised, are hereby confirmed in terms of minute 128 thereof.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D Brown', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rt Rev David Brown
Moderator

ROLL OF ASSEMBLY 2014

Charges and Home Mission Stations

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT

Ararat		Jeff Hardy
Ballarat North		Robert Taylor
Ballarat South	Steve North	Gordon Barry
Ballarat West	Ian Hutton	Norm Sharp
Carisbrook-Castlemaine	Hugh Price	
Daylesford	Mark Crabb	
Horsham-Marnoo		
Kaniva-Nhill		Bruce Meyer
Skipton-Lismore		
Retired Minister	Keith Allen	

PRESBYTERY OF BENALLA

Benalla	Ken Martin	Stan Roberts
Broadford	James Playfoot	
Numurkah		
Seymour-Nagambie-Yea		Bonnie Purbrick (Mrs)
Shepparton-Stanhope- Kyabram	Kyung Ee	Phil Betts
Tatura	Kevin Maxwell	James Finster
Wangaratta- Yarrawonga-M'ford	Paul Seiler	Malcolm Browning
Wodonga		
Retired Minister	Neil Harvey	Parity: Ralph Kop

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS

Aspendale		Kevin Savage
Brighton		Elizabeth Cutler (Mrs)
Cardinia-Koo-Wee-Rup		
Cheltenham	David Brown	Roger Symons
Clarinda		Andrew Forrester
Clayton	Michael Jensen	Alex Christian
Cranbourne	Peter Roberts	
Dandenong		
Dromana-Mornington	Michael Wishart	Rex McCarron
Frankston	Bill Medley	
	Jared Keath	
Mordialloc	Michael Wharton	Barbara Firth
Somerville	Ken Brown	
Sorrento-Rye	John Brennan	
Assistant	K Hui Lim	
South East Samoan	Kainano Opetaiia	
Retired Ministers	Peter Barclay	Parity: Edward de Zilwa
	Dallas Clarnette	
	Steven Giles	
	David Palmer	
	Frank Savage	
	Wally Zurrer	

PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG

Colac	Marvin Hagans	Geoff Cross
Geelong North	Darren Middleton	Bert Stasse
Geelong St Georges	Robert Waterhouse	Peter Anderson
Geelong West Scots	Robert White	Drew Chittenden
Moorabool		Peter Winstanley
The Leigh	Willem Vandenberg	Leigh Higgins
Retired Ministers	Andrew Bray	Parity: Luke Rolley
	John Cromarty	Stephen Kelly
	Graham Hamill	
	Allan Harman	

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND

Bairnsdale
Drouin
Assistant
Leongatha
Moe-Yarram
Morwell
Sale

Gary Stephens
Mark Smith
Heath Easton
Gary Wentworth
Stephen Deroon
Cameron Garrett

Bruce Downes
Karl Hood
Merv York

Maitland Vertigan
John Lagerwey
Alan Caldwell

Retired Ministers

Robert Boan
Peter Swinn

PRESBYTERY OF KILNOORAT

Camperdown-Terang
Hamilton
Heywood-Portland
Koroit-Port Fairy
Noorat
Warrnambool
Associate

Peter Phillips
David Schulz
Ian Johnstone
Ian Leach

Ben Johnson
Toby McIntosh

Tom Fleming

Alex Croft
Alec McRae
David Selman
David Hayward

Retired Minister

Neil Benfell

Parity: Craig Coates
Robert Prout

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH

Belgrave Heights	Mark Tonkin	
Blackburn		Keith Ferres
Croydon Hills	Matthew James	Paul Veith
Donvale	Gerald Vanderwert	Gerry Drew
Assistant	Clinton LePage	Peter Prendergast
Heathmont	Dean Carroll	Doug Fraser
Kilsyth-Kirkbrae	Wally Gear	
Mt Evelyn		Julian Dunn
Warburton		Albert Meeuwissen
Woori Yallock	Tony Archer	Walter Lawrence
Retired Ministers	Ivan Barker	Parity: Russell Gray
	Martin Hanse	
	Peter Locke	
	Peter Orchard	
	Andrew Slater	
	Arthur Stamp	
	Cor Vanderhorn	
	Andrew Venn	
Theological College		
Lecturer	Tony Bird	
Lecturer	Jared Hood	
Ministry Development		
Director	Robert Carner	
Youth Ministries Director	Brian Harvey	

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST

Arabic		
Ashburton		John Angelico
Auburn	Trevor Cox	
Burwood Community	John Elnatan	Paul Wong
Camberwell	Philip Mercer	Philip Barton
Canterbury	Grant Lawry	Kevin Childs
Caulfield-Elwood	Phillip Chang	Robert Belcher
Deaf	Tony Salisbury	
Gardenvale East		Bill Thompson
Hawthorn	Graham Nicholson	John Singleton
Korean	Stephen Kim	Won Il Kim
Malvern	Philip Daffy	David Brown
St Kilda/Balaclava	Bob Thomas	Brian Mills
South Yarra	John Stasse	Ben Palmer
Surrey Hills	Chris Siriweera	Noel Johnston
Retired Ministers	Graham Bradbeer Douglas Milne	Parity: Ken McClimont
Chaplains		
Scotch College	David Assender	
PLC	Charles Green	
Naval Chaplain	Barry Porter	
Defence Force Chaplain	Andrew Robinson	
Theological College		
Lecturer	Felix Chung	

**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH

Alice Springs/PIM	Keith Bell	
Bundoora	Neil Chambers	Andrew May
Assistant	Theo Fishwick	
Eltham	Don Elliott	Robert Herweynen
Epping		Peter Haberfield
Heidelberg		Tom Cunneen
Hume		
Kangaroo Ground		Robert Baldock
Reservoir	Andrew Vines	Reg Butcher
Samoa	Simalu Cowley	Malolo Uili
Templestowe		
Valley	Richard Wilson	
Whittlesea-Mernda		

Retired Ministers	Alan Every	
	Ian Stewart	

Clerk of Assembly	John Wilson	
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Defence Force Chaplain	Martin de Pyle	
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Theological College Principal	Peter Hastie	
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Training Officer	Nello Barbieri	
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PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST

Brimbank	Adam Humphries	Paul Ridgewell
Clifton Hill/Essendon		Victor Drobis
Darebin	Aaron Boyd	
Darwin/PIM	Robert Duncanson	
Gisborne	Matthew Tegar	George McConagie
Melbourne Scots/ Flemington	Douglas Robertson	Neil Gilmour
Assistant	Philip Court	
Melton	Richard O'Brien	
Point Cook	Peter Owen	Dennis Wright
Sunshine	John Cho	Gilbert Bell
Williamstown	Bruce Riding	Jennifer Homewood (Mrs)
Wyndham	Peter Greiner	Harry Carpenter

Retired Minister	Philip Simmonds	
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Law Agent		Brian Bayston
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Social Services Convener		Robert Lowe
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**Charges and Home
Mission Stations**

Ministers

Elders

PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA

Bendigo	Philip Burns	Andrew Kerr
Eaglehawk		Steven Arbuckle
North Western Lakes	Miles Fagan	Stephen Dyer
Rochester	Stuart Withers	Jeff Broad
South East Bendigo		Russ Grinter
Sunraysia		Colin Morrow
Retired Ministers	Ian Brown	
	John Sutherland	

REPORTS

BUSINESS COMMITTEE (Min. 12)

You ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that'. (James 4:15)

The Business Committee has received all papers of a non-judicial nature currently proposed to be submitted to the Assembly. It has resolved to transmit to the Assembly in the form of this 'White Book' those papers which seem competent and respectful.

Assembly expositor

The Committee is pleased to report that the Moderator General, Rt Rev David Cook, has agreed to be the Assembly expositor for 2014. It is planned that he will preach at the Tuesday morning communion service, and at the opening of the Wednesday morning and Thursday sederunts.

Lunches (including the Mission lunch)

The Tuesday Moderator's lunch, for Assembly members, will be held in the Robert White Hall. Booking is required.

The Wednesday lunch is the Mission lunch, held in the Robert White Hall, during the usual lunchtime slot (12.30–2.00pm). It is planned that the Tranters (AIM, Borroloola, Northern Territory) will be speaking. Booking is required.

Thanks

The Committee takes this opportunity to thank:

- the Minister, Session and members of the Scots' Church, Melbourne, for the use of its facilities, and especially for hosting the opening and communion services and organising the supper after the opening service;
- the Assembly Office staff members for their work in assisting in the smooth running of the Assembly;
- APWM for organising the Mission Lunch, and the various speakers at the lunch;
- Bruce Riding and any others assisting with data projection;
- Matt James and any others assisting with the audio system; and
- David Schulz and others assisting with music.

Ros Grant

Mrs Ros Grant has been Administrative Assistant in the Assembly Office for 29 years, and will be retiring at the end of the Assembly week. The Business Committee wishes to express its deep appreciation to Mrs Grant for her faithful and diligent service to the Committee, preparing decades' worth of Assembly papers, always being available for the long hours required during Assembly weeks, and happily meeting the challenges offered by the several country Assemblies that have been held. A motion of thanks will be moved by the Clerk at an appropriate time.

Committee or Convener Reports?

Committees and Conveners are reminded that a written report to the Assembly, whilst printed with the name of the Convener, is the report of the Committee concerned. A report ought to have been approved by the Committee, after careful

deliberation by all Committee members, and ought to express the collective mind of the Committee.

Therefore, the Business Committee, whilst acknowledging that committees are free to express themselves as they see best in the circumstances, suggests that the use of first person singular pronouns (e.g. 'I') in reports be kept to a minimum. Expressions such as 'I believe' in a report could suitably be changed to 'the Committee believes', etc.

Commission and next Assembly

The Committee recommends that:

1. the ordinary Commission of Assembly meet on Tuesday, 5 May, 2015, at 10.30am in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall; and
2. the 2015 General Assembly convene in the Scots' Church, Melbourne, at 7.30pm on Monday, 5 October, for worship and the induction of the Moderator, and thereafter in Werner Brodbeck Hall within the Assembly Hall for business.

The clerk will move motions to this end at the close of the Assembly.

Outline of business

The Business Committee is required to present an agenda at the start of each sederunt (other than the first). As a guide, the Committee will seek to arrange business according to the following outline.

FIRST SEDERUNT

Monday, 6 October, 2014, at 7.30pm in the Scots' Church, Melbourne
Service of worship and the induction of the Moderator

SECOND SEDERUNT

Tuesday, 7 October, 2014, 9.30am—5.30pm
Assembly Communion Service (constitution)
11.00am Roll
Apologies
Associations
Welcomes
Business Committee
Minutes of previous sederunt
Minutes of the 2014 Commission of Assembly
New members
Ministerial and Elders' Jubilees
Ministerial and Elders' deaths – Prayer
Royal address and Loyal addresses
Moderator General, Rt Rev David Cook
Past Moderator
Moderator's Committee
Board of Investment and Finance
[12.30pm—2.00pm Lunch]
Trusts Corporation
Church Planting Committee
Belgrave Heights Christian School
Presbyterian Ladies' College
Scotch College
[3.30pm—3.50pm Refreshments]

FOD 3.50pm Ad Hoc Committee for Presbyterian Schooling
Commission for Church Institutions
Archive
Code and General Administration Committee
State News Committee
Appeals, Overtures, Communications, References, Petitions
Business Committee

THIRD SEDERUNT

Tuesday, 7 October, 2014, 7.00pm—9.00pm

Constitution
Apologies
Business Committee
Minutes of previous sederunt
FOD 7.05pm Building and Property Committee
Communication 3: GAA Relationships with Other Churches C'tee—Information
Very Rev Robert Benn, Convener
Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
Social Services Committee
General Mission Program Committee
Unfinished business from previous sederunt
Business Committee

FOURTH SEDERUNT

Wednesday, 8 October, 2014, 9.30am—5.30pm

Constitution
Assembly expositor
Apologies
Business Committee
Minutes of previous sederunt
FOD 10.00am The Bible Society in Australia (Victoria)
Mr Mark Nidenko, Bible Society Church Relations Coordinator
Church and Nation Committee
Clerkship Committee
FOD 11.30am Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Vic)
Rev Kevin Murray (National Director, APWM)
Presentation of missionaries
FOD 12.15pm Ballot (if required)
[12.30pm—2.00pm Mission Lunch]
FOD 2.05pm St Andrews Christian College
Mrs Catriona Wansbrough, Principal
Rev Ghassan Tomas, St Andrews Parent
FOD 2.20pm Home Mission Workers' Association
FOD 2.30pm Ad Hoc Committee on Breaking the Silence Revision
Liaison Officers for Persons Leaving 'The Fellowship'
METRO Committee
Petition 1 Presbytery of Gippsland—Bairnsdale Funding
[3.30pm—3.50pm Refreshments]
FOD 3.50pm Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee
FOD 4.00pm Communication 1 Presbyterian Inland Mission
FOD 4.10pm Christian Education and Nurture Committee
Unfinished business from previous sederunts

Business Committee

FIFTH SEDERUNT

Wednesday, 8 October, 2014, 7.00pm—9.00pm

Constitution

Apologies

Business Committee

Minutes of previous sederunt

Ad Hoc Committee on Sites Reserve

Ministry Development Committee

Exit Student Committee

Selection Committee

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

Petition 2 Presbytery of Maroondah—seat on Presbytery for Rev Chuol Yat

Communication 8 Clerk, GAA—Code of Discipline Remit

Unfinished business from previous sederunts

Business Committee

SIXTH SEDERUNT

Thursday, 9 October, 2014, 9.30am to the finish of business

Constitution

Assembly expositor

Apologies

Business Committee

Minutes of previous sederunt

ACCESS Ministries (CCES)

Rob Ward, General Manager of Development and Communications

Theological Education Committee

Records Committee

FOD 11.45am Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union

[12.30pm—2.00pm Lunch]

Communication 2 PCWA—Thanks

Communication 4 Access Ministries—Thanks

Communication 5 Australian Christian Lobby—Thanks

Communication 6 Clerk, GAA—GAA Declaration on Baptism

Communication 7 Clerk, GAA—GAA Committee Structure

[3.30pm—3.50pm Refreshments]

Closing formalities

Commendation

Commission to confirm minutes

Appointment of Commission of Assembly

Appointment of next Assembly

Ballot Committee discharged

Dissolution

Jared C Hood
CONVENER

ACCESS MINISTRIES (Min. 101, 107)

What a privilege to be able to teach the beliefs and tenets of the Christian faith from a biblical perspective to students in our State primary schools for 30 minutes each week!

In the first semester of 2014, ACCESS Ministries provided nearly 86,000 student books for the teaching of SRI (Special Religious Instruction) by accredited Christian volunteers in 742 Victorian State primary schools. However, the landscape has changed somewhat in the second half of the year, following the issuing of Ministerial Direction MD 141, which led to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) requiring all providers of SRI (of which ACCESS Ministries is by far the largest) to enter into a new Agreement for the Accreditation of persons to provide SRI in State primary schools for the second semester of 2014. This led to a new consent form (opt in) being required from parents if they wished their children to participate in SRI in Terms 3 and 4. Due to the negotiations in relation to the new Agreement taking place late in Term 2, schools only sent out the consent forms either at the very end of Term 2 or at the beginning of Term 3. This has led to a disruption of SRI classes in Term 3 with SRI programs not commencing in most schools until week 2 or 3. Some parents, unsettled by the sustained and aggressive media attacks in the press against SRI (led by FIRIS - Fairness in Religion in Schools) and the uncertainty surrounding aspects of the new consent form, have been slow in returning the forms or have failed to do so. In addition, principals were given the right to opt their schools out of SRI if there was a lack of resources to continue the program (mainly because of the small number of students whose parents wanted them to do SRI). Some principals seem to have made that decision without even sending out the consent forms and ascertaining the numbers of students opting in for Term 3. As a result of these factors, 88 State primary schools have pulled out of the SRI program altogether in Term 3 and other schools have commenced the program for Term 3 with the number of students significantly down on the number involved in Terms 1 and 2 (although students trickle back week by week). This has left volunteers and local churches caught in the middle and some volunteers grieving the loss of their treasured work among the primary school students. Let us pray that there will be opportunity for them to take up the work again soon.

Certainly, ACCESS Ministries is making every opportunity to address the current situation. Negotiations with DEECD in relation to the new Agreement for the Accreditation of Persons to Provide Special Religious Instruction have been more productive since the Minister of Education directed his Department to withdraw elements of his Ministerial Directive forbidding students and others distributing Bibles and other religious material in schools and prohibiting lunchtime meetings for prayer, Bible talks and the like 'led, conducted by or at the instruction of staff or parents/visitors/volunteers' and it is hoped that the consent form to be sent to parents for 2015 will be clear and concise and ready to be sent out in a timely fashion. Professional Development training for SRI instructors is focussing on a refresher of the accreditation training so that volunteers understand and adhere to MD141 (for example, what to do now that SRI volunteers are 'not to provide or offer any enticement, reward or other benefit of a tangible nature to their SRI group' - i.e. no stickers) and anticipating the needs and challenges facing SRI volunteers with the changed landscape.

Volunteers are being encouraged to engage with their churches so that the relationship between ACCESS Ministries and the church is strengthened from the ground up. The partnership communication strategy is being revised to engage with and resource churches more efficiently.

In addition, new curriculum material – ‘SRI - Explore Christianity’ - is being developed, moving from two student and teacher books a year to one book a year, with a two year cycle. This material recognises the wishes of parents to have their children involved in a program in which they may learn about the beliefs and tenets of the Christian faith from a biblical perspective. The material is based on the Apostles’ Creed. As Greg Clarke, CEO of the Bible Society, made clear in his excellent presentation at the ‘Stand Together’ gathering held at Crossway Baptist Church on Monday 21st July to celebrate CRE, pray for its future and declare support for those whose heart for children leads them to serve in their ministry: you cannot claim to be properly educated in our Australian society without some knowledge of the Bible, given its significant influence in the shaping of our cultural values, norms and practices. The material will also provide resources aimed at strengthening the natural linkage points with both AusVELS and the Australian Curriculum, and so contributing to the task of development of the whole child. In addition, training for SRI volunteers will see each volunteer working towards a diploma (or equivalent) in the field of Christian education with the ACCESS Ministries Training Institute (AMTI).

There is the very real possibility that in the future SRI in its current form might not continue and the ACCESS Ministries Board is considering alternative means to continue this ministry in State primary schools such as after-school or lunchtime programs.

In relation to school chaplaincy the Federal Government has approved a new round of funding for the National Schools Chaplaincy Program (NSCP) for 2015-2018 (but only for chaplains and not for welfare workers). Following a further challenge by an individual in Queensland to the Federal Government funding of Chaplaincy, the High Court ruled some months ago that the Federal Government’s direct funding model was not valid. The Federal Government is looking at a new funding method, probably by a grant of funds to the States and Territories. Please pray that this is finalised soon so that the chaplains can be paid through the summer school holidays and not have to be laid off and then re-employed at the start of the new school year.

It should be noted that Rev Canon Dr Evonne Paddison resigned as CEO in mid July following a period of ill health. We thank God for her godly leadership for more than 8 years and her vision, innovation and unwavering commitment to seeing children and young people understand the Christian faith through CRE and Chaplaincy. She embraced collaboration providing a driving force behind the National School Chaplaincy Association and forging links with other SRI providers and worked closely with the 12 Christian denominations that constitute ACCESS Ministries.

Dr Paddison combined her deep sense of Christianity with an equally strong commitment to education at all levels. She raised training standards for chaplains, oversaw establishment of the AMTI and embedded a culture of continuing professional development within the organisation. ACCESS Ministries’ first Christian Religious Education (CRE) materials were developed under Dr Paddison’s guidance in 2006 and were continually expanded and upgraded from

that time.

During Dr Paddison's stewardship, ACCESS Ministries redefined its strategic direction and brand, implemented effective organisational policies and procedures, adopted a new Constitution in 2009 and established professional offices in Camberwell. Her courage and dedication to the promotion of Christian values and faith - often in very challenging circumstances - were central to her leadership of the organisation. We owe her a debt of gratitude.

Dawn Penney, who has filled a number of senior management roles with ACCESS Ministries for over 7 years, has agreed to take on an interim role as Acting CEO while a search is conducted for a new CEO. Please pray for the Lord to raise up the right leader for these challenging and crucial times.

Finally, special thanks to Rev David Palmer who, in his role as Moderator these past two years, has been very active in his support of the work of ACCESS Ministries, and the CRE ministry in particular. Also, thanks to those in the PCV who have committed themselves to regular prayer for this important ministry. Alison Thomas continues to be a very committed member of the ACCESS Ministries Council and Grant Lawry has just been elected for a further 4-year term on the Board, having served as Chairman of the Governance Committee of the Board since 2008 and as Deputy Chairman of the Board for the past year.

Grant Lawry and Alison Thomas
PRESBYTERIAN REPRESENTATIVES
ON THE ACCESS MINISTRIES COUNCIL

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON BREAKING THE SILENCE REVISION (Min. 74)

The committee has met as required throughout the year since the last meeting of the General Assembly, and is convinced more than ever of the importance of establishing policy, procedure and practice for building and maintaining a safe-church culture within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Jesus, while ministering on earth, taught of the critical value God has placed on the child in our company (see, for example, his rebuke of the disciples in Mark 10). Yet, it is wider than that - Safe Church – PCV is not only about children in our company feeling safe, but it extends to everyone. Again, without reference to age, Jesus declares that he has come so that the bruised reed shall not be broken, nor the smoldering wick snuffed out (see Matthew 12).

In policy, procedure and practice we are determined to see a culture develop throughout PCV where the child, the vulnerable and any who feel they are bruised reeds feel safe, protected and nurtured.

The committee has been greatly encouraged in this by both formal church response (as in General Assembly resolutions of 2013) and also in less formal ways as members have interacted with PCV committees, churches and personnel throughout the year. The feedback we are receiving has been positive, and we are grateful for this.

You will recall that the General Assembly (GAV BB Min. 64, 2013) declared this year to be an interim period in the development of Safe Church – PCV, as we transition from Breaking the Silence (2004) to a complete policy, procedure and practice of Safe Church – PCV (2014).

We are pleased to report that very significant progress has been made in this direction. We have been keenly aware of the Lord's guidance and enabling that has brought us to this point, perhaps even more efficiently and quickly than we could have hoped for.

In summary:

1. We are ready to submit for General Assembly approval a complete package of what we see as policy, procedure and practice of Safe Church – PCV (2014). At last year's Assembly we approved the 'Policy Statement' and 'Code of Conduct'. Now we present the whole manual for approval as a replacement of Breaking the Silence 2004. Copies of the manual will be sent to Commissioners prior to arriving at the General Assembly.
2. The Safe Church Unit (SCU) of Safe Church – PCV now has an office presence: **4/9b Salisbury Avenue, BLACKBURN, 3130**, and is generally open to the public on Wednesdays and Thursdays between 9.30am and 2.30pm.
3. The Safe Church Unit (SCU) of Safe Church – PCV has now employed a Training and Compliance Officer (part-time) to assist with:
 - a. computer data-entry and filing cabinet record-keeping;

- b. development and delivery of training modules for ministers, elders and church members;
- c. compliance checking throughout the denomination.

It was after due process, wide advertising and careful interview and consultation that Mrs Fiona Bligh (of the Eltham congregation) was appointed as from 1 July 2014 for an initial 2 year term, and thereafter the standard 3 year term, subject to assessment of satisfactory performance.

Fiona's phone contact (dedicated number) is **0499 090 449** and her email address is safechurch@pcvic.org.au.

- 4. The budget for the operation of the Safe Church Unit has been pared down (from what was previously reported) and was approved by the Commission of Assembly (May 2014) in the form: Set-up capital items for office: \$3,000 and recurrent budget of \$66,700. This is a reduction from previous indications reported to 2013 General Assembly of \$126,600.
- 5. The Safe Church Unit will have released a website exclusively for the work of Safe Church – PCV by the end of September 2014 see: **www.safechurchpcv.org.au**. The Safe Church – PCV manual will be available on the website for anyone to download.

During the course of the past year, three approaches have been made to the Safe Church Unit relating to concerns over the attitude or actions of a minister or elder of the PCV (none relating to paedophilia). After investigation, two were referred to the relevant presbyteries for actioning under the code of discipline and the third complaint settled by decision of session.

In order to emerge from this interim period satisfactorily, and even to discharge this committee, there are the following important considerations we bring to the General Assembly's attention:

- a. For the General Assembly to endorse the committee's action in appointing Mrs Fiona Bligh as the PCV's inaugural Training and Compliance Officer for Safe Church – PCV.
- b. For the General Assembly to note that the Assembly Clerk is willing, under his current terms of employment, to perform the role of Case Manager – Safe Church – PCV, while noting that in the future the Assembly may not consider it the best administrative arrangement to have its Clerk continue in that role.
- c. For the General Assembly to appoint, subsequent to the discharge of this committee, a Panel of Reference for the Case Manager to consult with as necessary, and for this panel to consist of: Brian Harvey, Kathy James and Fiona Bligh.

David J Palmer
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON DEVELOPMENT OF PRESBYTERIAN CHRISTIAN SCHOOLING IN VICTORIA (Min. 71)

At the 2013 General Assembly, as outlined in minute 107, the committee was established with the following purposes:

1. Producing an initial response to the challenge of developing Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria, exploring the scope of this challenge;
2. Drafting a set of regulations, outlining the constitution, purpose, function and work of a permanent committee of the same name;
3. Reporting back to the next meeting of the General Assembly in October 2014.

The committee has undertaken the activities required by the Assembly culminating in this report.

The initial response to the challenge presented is outlined in this report with a set of guidelines for the establishment of educational institutions included in the deliverances associated with this report.

The regulations defining the function and work of a permanent committee have been developed but are not contained in this report. The regulations will be presented to the Assembly by the Code Committee which has reviewed the regulations to ensure alignment with the existing code of the PCV.

Report on activities

The ad hoc committee has met a number of times and has sought to establish a permanent committee based on the work of previous committees that have looked at School establishment as well as the experiences of establishing the existing schools associated with the PCV.

As a result the committee decided to base its regulations (as presented by the Code Committee) on the regulations that were previously in place for the permanent committee that had previously existed to establish new schools. The regulations developed by the ad hoc committee are basically the same as those in place previously with some minor updating and tweaking.

The ad hoc committee also decided to update and present the School Establishment Guidelines that were previously brought to the Assembly. These guidelines are formally presented below via a proposed deliverance.

The committee also discussed the practicalities of establishing educational institutions and determined that there are four specific activities that must be undertaken to be successful. These have been established as portfolios within the permanent committee. As the committee gains experience these portfolios may be expanded or modified. These portfolios are:

- **Financing:** This portfolio will be accountable for the creation of the financial capacity to establish a new educational institution. It was determined by the ad hoc committee that the ability to fund a new institution is the key pre-requisite for success.
- **Opportunity Prospecting:** This portfolio will be accountable for the identification of possible opportunities for the establishment of educational

institutions that can then be developed by the committee into concrete proposals.

- **Governance:** This portfolio will be accountable for the creation of governance templates that can be leveraged by new educational institutions.
- **Communications:** This portfolio will be accountable for the maintenance of communication regarding the aims and progress of the committee inside and outside the PCV. This will include advocacy of Christian Education in general.

Definition of a “school”

The research undertaken by the ad hoc committee found that the term “school” is no longer as clearly defined as it was in the past. For this reason the committee has sought to define a school with a specific but quite wide definition that allows the greatest number of opportunities to be considered by a permanent committee.

The proposed definition of school is included in both the regulations and guidelines and can be taken to include any educational institution. This will include the traditional types of schools such a primary or secondary school but also extends to trade training colleges or early learning centres.

Financing new institutions

The establishment of any form of educational institution is more expensive today than in previous decades due to the level of regulatory compliance that must be undertaken. It was therefore determined by the committee that the core concern of a permanent committee should initially be the development of a significant financial capacity that is not depending on the general revenue of the Church or any specific trust or fund. The permanent committee will seek independent sources of funds that can be used for concrete opportunities and proposals.

Committee name

The initial request of the Assembly was to establish a permanent committee under the name *Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria*. The ad hoc committee determined that a preferred name would be *Christian Schools Development Committee* and have included this change in the submission of regulations to the Code Committee.

Mission

The permanent committee will not seek to establish new schools as a financial investment, a service to the community or to improve educational outcomes for the youth of the Church. While these are worthy reasons and would be welcome secondary outcomes the core intent of the committee is to establish new schools to further the work of the gospel.

James Bligh
CONVENER

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SITES RESERVE (Min. 89)

The Commission of Assembly this year considered the matter of more effective use of sites reserve funds at length in the light of the Declarative Statement and Queen's Counsel Opinion presented, with the instruction as per GAV (May 2014) Min. 12.

The committee subsequently met and agreed to put before Mr Geoffrey Cox, lawyer with McCracken and McCracken, the Declarative Statement and those concerns raised during the debate which were submitted to the committee. At the time of the preparation of this report, the committee continues to await a reply.

In the event of the committee's inability to bring a supplementary report to this Assembly, the committee will be seeking an extension of time to consider a report from Mr Cox and to report in full to the 2015 Commission of Assembly.

Andrew Bray
CONVENER

ARCHIVE – PCV (Min. 37)

Here is a report directly from Mrs C Palmer, PCV Archivist:

'I very much appreciated the opportunity last year in October, 2013 to present a verbal report directly to the General Assembly.

In it I was able to give an overview of the current work we do: I attend to answering inquiries and management; my helpers: sorting and entry on the database. The need for careful planning to cover the necessary basic collection and systems maintenance was also covered in my presentation.

Unfortunately, although I was aware of the need for collection and systems maintenance it has increasingly come home to me since, how far behind I am. In short, we have a crisis.

How did we come to this? I think there are a number of reasons, but two main ones stand out.

The first is that most of the collection is at a distance, off-site at Fort Knox. This has caused the slowing down and inability to make quick searches to find answers, or to insert newly donated records. There is a great deal of filing, adding and/or disposal in my work on the collection, and it makes the work difficult and well nigh impossible with most of the collection off-site. As time has gone on, six years now, there has been a cumulative, snowballing effect, and an impasse has been reached.

Medium to long term I would love to see a purpose built permanent storage archival facility on site here at South Yarra, and I think we should work towards that. To prepare for that, a great deal of work on the collection and its systems is necessary.

The second reason is that I work four days a fortnight, and that simply isn't sufficient to do the work necessary. Before I moved out of the Assembly hall I was working five days a fortnight, and had the total collection at hand. With the collection at a distance I would like my time allocation increased, so that I can more adequately cover the work.

To address this immediate crisis I suggested to John Wilson that we suspend the public inquiry service for the next two years in order to have the time to concentrate on the collection. John Wilson has suggested a compromise, which is to maintain an in-house service for the PCV only, and I can live with that, but I do think I need the two years.

I am often asked: For donating material to the archive, what do you require?

Here is a short answer. All session and board minute books, annual reports, registers, men, women and childrens' work, parish magazines, historical information. Please, treasurers, we do not want bank statements, cheque butts and receipts. You keep those for 5-7 years, then throw them away. We do want annual statements and annual reports, property records (you keep a photocopy). Any correspondence should be related to issues or people, not general correspondence.'

Chris Palmer

As you may see from her report, above, Chris Palmer is a very hard working archivist who gives faithful personal attention to each approach for her services. Chris' work is of the highest standard.

We are very grateful for the General Assembly funding this Archive. We are glad that this church thinks so highly of our archival 'treasure house'. We think it is fitting to do so and to maintain this valuable resource for research into the acts of God within our church for over 150 years.

Yes, it costs the General Assembly approx \$53,000 p.a. to do this. To remind the Assembly of what we are primarily supporting in this:

\$35,000 (approx) is for staff costs;

\$10,500 is to store the Archive with Fort Knox and retrieve whatever we need;

\$5,000 is to rent our locatable office, courtesy of South Yarra Presbyterian Church.

Our voluntary helpers have supported the work magnificently. Always, this work is a team effort.

Digitisation

The task of creating a digital record of every General Assembly Blue Book is well under way, but is proving more difficult (to produce a high quality end product) than we first anticipated. Nevertheless, we look forward to the job being completed during the coming year.

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

AUSTRALIAN PRESBYTERIAN WORLD MISSION (VIC) COMMITTEE (Min. 69)

1. Missions Promotion

In line with our Lord's commission, the committee has committed to take a more pro-active approach to missions promotion within Victoria. Consequently, the convener, since the last Assembly, has been privileged to preach at several PCV churches. Other members of the committee have also been actively involved in missions promotion.

The convener's focus has been to encourage the churches to re-look at gospel partnership, both local and overseas, through Philippians ch 1, and he has enjoyed some encouraging conversations following the services.

Mission Agencies

The committee's decision involves seeking a closer working relationship with Victorian mission agencies.

Consequently, the convener has arranged a follow up meeting with Pioneers early September 2014, and also received encouraging invitations from Interserve, SIM and Wycliffe Vic.

Cultural Diversity Workshops

The committee has also recently resolved to encourage PTC staff and students to attend workshops offered by Missions Interlink called *Working Effectively in Cultural Diversity*. The Melbourne workshop is scheduled for September 11th-12th.

Consequently, the committee resolved to sponsor up to a maximum of 10 people (staff or candidates); the cost to be met from Grants – Mission Expenses.

Missionary Movements

Rev Philip Burns has been appointed by the committee to take over the portfolio of Missionary Movements.

2. Missionary Interviews

The committee has met each month and apart from regular items of business, the committee also met with and interviewed the following missionaries on home assignment, as well as our National Director and Victorian moderator:

Andy Williamson (Vanuatu)

Alan and Faye Canavan (Queensland)

Warwick and Natalie Short (Niger)

Daryl and Soyoun Jackson (studying prior to redeployment)

Rhys and Rhondda Hall (South Sudan)

David and Lalit Clarke (Cambodia)

John and Lynette Ellis (India)

Carol Whipp (retired)

Joy Hill (Interserve)

Daniel and Courtney Denness (South Asia)

Paul and Janae Denness (Victoria)

Graham and Sue Hammond (Victoria/Darwin)

The committee greatly values these meetings which are seen as an essential part of our pastoral care to our missionaries, providing both the committee and our missionaries with the opportunity to review and discuss first hand their experiences and/or concerns.

Since the last Assembly the Joseph Kalo Kunda family (partner agency missionaries) and Miss Joy Venning (APWM Associate) have also been accepted, commissioned and commenced service, in Sydney and India respectively. The Dekker family (Partner Church Missionaries for Vanuatu), the Indarto family (Partner Agency Missionaries for Indonesia), and Aaron and Katie Rigg (Partner Agency Missionaries for Arnhem Land), have been accepted. Please consider joining their support teams.

3. Prayer meetings

Prayer for our missionaries continues to be an important part of all our meetings. However, the attendance at the mission prayer meetings scheduled during the year was disappointing.

Consequently, the committee decided to discontinue the mission prayer meetings from the 20th March 2014.

However, the committee, knowing that prayer is the essential foundation to all Christian ministry, decided to encourage and inform the prayers of the whole church by instructing our prayer co-ordinator to send out appropriate 'food for prayer' via the PCV Email news network.

4. Missionary Poster

The committee has been working on producing an updated mission poster, which will hopefully be available for Assembly.

The committee believes the poster plays an important part in promoting/keeping our missionaries' faces before our congregations.

Congregations are asked to be sensitive about leaving these posters in public places where people can walk off the street and obtain a listing along with photos.

5. Finances

The committee praises God for his wonderful provision through the Victoria Assembly Simon Fraser Trust funds of \$45,000 per annum, which enables the committee, on behalf of the Assembly, to offer funding assistance to our missionaries whilst on home assignment, that is, up to \$5,000 per missionary unit for rental and utilities costs. This provision has recently been increased on a pro rata basis for those coming more frequently than every four years, and to include assistance toward telephone and internet costs.

The committee again used the budget surplus to provide as 'one off' donations toward our missionaries' superannuation funds (with the voluntary exception of Len Pearce and John Ellis - \$1,400 per couple and \$700 per single).

Trust Funds continue to provide support for our Vanuatu Partner Church missionaries plus scholarship assistance for Talua MTC and PTS Dehra Dun students.

The committee continues to provide funding support for the Mantons at Mt Druitt Indigenous Church, from the General Funds.

The committee greatly appreciates the continued prayer/financial support of the Victorian Assembly.

6. Coins for Mission (C4M)

The committee continues to praise God for the churches that faithfully support C4M. However, the number of supporting churches seems to have paused at approx. 50% of the total in Victoria. Even so, our missionaries have been blessed with receiving \$65,000 distributed up to July 2014, over a period of 22 months since the inception of the program in September 2012.

It must be stressed that the Coins for Missions program, which encourages every church attendee each Sunday to deposit \$2 in the C4M box, was never meant to be a substitution for a church's missionary giving, but as a supplementary effort. The possibilities nevertheless are endless. If every person attending a Presbyterian church in Victoria was to give \$2 each Sunday we would collect over \$400,000 p.a. to meet special missionary needs, especially shortfalls in support.

To encourage the Assembly, here are some ways in which, by God's grace and provision through C4M, the committee has been able to financially assist our missionaries with support shortfall, emergency health/medical and travel needs, among other things. The committee has received numerous expressions of thanks and appreciation from many missionaries, who have received generous C4M support through the 33 churches enrolled in the program.

Please prayerfully consider your participation and the wonderful blessings it provides to our missionaries. The committee's 'Coins' representatives are Rev and Mrs Len Pearce, who are willing to visit any church anywhere in Victoria from Mildura to Orbost, in the cause of C4M. Please invite them personally. We still have about 20 boxes and can have more made very quickly if needed.

7. Cars for missionaries on Home Assignment

We often hear grateful thanks expressed by our missionaries who have had one of our cars to use while at home. We too are very grateful that over the years we have been given cars or funds to buy a new one to help them in this way. It is often a costly exercise to buy and sell a vehicle for a short time at home. After several years during which our four vehicles (and in the last year often an additional borrowed vehicle) were in constant use, we have had some significant maintenance costs, especially with the aging members of the fleet.

Since February there have been one or more vehicles constantly unused, but parked and driven only to care for them. This looks like continuing through into the beginning of next year.

At the same time, two older vehicles in our fleet are increasingly costly to maintain. If you would like to help us with this ministry to our missionaries who are mostly only home for up to six months at a time, we are on the lookout for one or two replacement vehicles. Ideally they would be in good condition, have at least four or more low-maintenance years still ahead of them and suit a family. If you are able to assist us in this way, Douglas Bennett would be happy to hear from you.

8. Mission Lunch

The committee invites a missionary couple or family to speak at the mission lunch in each year. Motor Isaac Yat was our mission speaker in 2013. One of the purposes of the mission lunch is to build a bridge between our missionaries and the churches and congregations in our denomination. We do this so that we will all get to know who they are, what they do, what they need and how we can support and be the partners of their mission.

The committee also provides a wonderful lunch at reasonable cost to you. However it is not a fund-raising function but a privilege to share food and drinks in the name of our Lord Christ Jesus.

9. Overseas Mission Relationship

The committee has continued, in conjunction with APWM Federal, to support and encourage our relationship with PTS India and our Partner Churches in South Sudan, Malawi, Zambia, Vanuatu and Japan.

We are also seeking to develop a closer working relationship with the Victorian Partner Mission Societies, in order to provide a more comprehensive pastoral service to our missionaries – whilst in the field and on home assignment.

10. Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union

The PWMU State Council has continued to take a strong interest in the work of our committee and our missionary team across to the world, and continues to place representatives on the committee.

We thank them for their support and generosity, interest in, and love for our missionaries while on the field and at home.

11. Federal APWM

APWM Vic has two members (convener and an elected committee member) on the Federal Executive Committee which meets annually in Sydney (AGM). The convener, as a member of the Federal Executive, also travels to Sydney for an additional three executive meetings per annum. The committee has appointed either Rev Dean Carroll or Douglas Bennett to accompany the convener to these meetings.

The committee greatly appreciates the support and encouragement received from the National Director and the National Committee members.

Phil Simmonds
CONVENER

Australian Presbyterian World Mission

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

General Mission Programme	44,188
General Donations and Gifts	1,464
Common Fund Interest	62,633

Total Income	108,285
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Expenditure:

Grants	63,704
Missionaries Superannuation	14,376
Missionaries Motor Vehicle Expenses	19,670
Committee General Expenses	4,246

Total Expenditure	101,997
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Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations	6,288
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Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	196,040
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	6,288
Add Back Depreciation	6,707

Balance 30/6/14	209,035
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Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/14	307,671
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Overseas Appeals

	Opening Bal.	Donations	Payments	Balance
Malawi	3,000	30,327	31,694	1,633
Coins for Mission	2,059	34,694	36,450	303
Zambia	0	6,500	6,400	100
	5,059	71,521	74,544	2,036

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	<u>Vanuatu Trusts</u>	<u>Sudan Appeal</u>	<u>Beatty Trust</u>	<u>Bone Bequest</u>	<u>Dehra Dun Trust</u>
Income:					
Bequests				82,326	
Common Fund Interest	20,684	642	15,698		4,391
Total Income	20,684	642	15,698	82,326	4,391
Expenditure:					
Grants	31,300	9,047	20,000		-
Total Expenditure	31,300	9,047	20,000	0	0
Surplus/(Deficit) on Specific	(10,616)	(8,405)	(4,302)	82,326	4,391

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	134,795	8,405	132,391	-	9,985
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(10,616)	(8,405)	(4,302)	82,326	4,391
Balance 30/6/14	124,179	0	128,089	82,326	14,376

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/14	41,451	25,000
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BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL (Min. 33)

Chairman's Report to Assembly 2014

'Practise hospitality' (Romans 12:13). The final chapters of Paul's letter to the church in Rome are full of exhortation for God's people to love in a way that is not theoretical but sincere. This particular exhortation fits well with the focus of what has undoubtedly been a highlight of the year 2013 to 2014, and indeed of the school's history: the completion and celebration of the Trade Training Centre. The emphasis on serving was evident in the attitude of the students who, ably led by their Food Technology teacher, worked so hard to produce a very attractive meal for the 100 or so guests, many of whom had had a long history of service to the school community. The public acknowledgement of the contribution made by those who worked on the construction of the new building was a fitting testimony to those who have given of their best in this enterprise.

The opening of the VCE Centre in the lower level of the building was another highly significant moment: the conclusion of a long process that was initiated by the decision to move from a Prep to year 10 school to a Prep to year 12 school. The decision was not taken lightly as the provision of a VCE program is very costly in terms of staffing and accommodation for small classes in many subject areas. To see the opening of such an excellent suite of rooms was a tremendous encouragement to all who have been involved in the process. Once again we owe much to our Principal, and our Business Manager who have gone to great lengths to ensure that the Board's decisions have been carried out with efficiency and imagination.

The Board has, throughout the past twelve months, continued to work towards ensuring that Belgrave Heights Christian School maintains appropriate standards of governance. We are still in the process of considering the drawing up of a governance handbook with the aim of providing valuable guidelines for board members, particularly for new members. Recent changes to the Act of Government relating to Not for Profit Associations have necessitated a review of the school's constitution. This review will be completed shortly. A further aspect of the Board's work has been the construction of a Strategic Management Plan.

The school continues to be blessed by leadership of exceptionally high calibre within the teaching and administrative staff, both within BHCS and in the wider sphere of Christian Schooling. We congratulate our Principal on his recent appointment to the position of Deputy Chairman of the CSA Vic/Tas State Council, and support him in his desire to see all Christian schools come together in one body and to see the development of new schools in areas that are not currently served by Christian schools. The Board's decision to commit some of its own resources to the encouragement of under-resourced schools is a significant part of such initiatives.

BHCS continues to see the hand of God in all areas of its life, not least in the calibre of its student leaders who consistently demonstrate true Christian character and commitment and in the calibre of those the Lord has drawn to serve on the Board. In this past year he has strengthened us through the appointment of Mrs Yolanda Cox as a parent nomination and Rev Andrew Slater as a Presbyterian Church of Victoria nomination.

Let us continue to encourage all within the BHCS family to remember with King David that 'My help comes from the Lord who made heaven and earth' (Psalm 121:2).

Warwick Davidson
CHAIRMAN

BIBLE SOCIETY AUSTRALIA (Min. 64)

As requested in Blue Book 2013, minute 58.3 I have arranged for Mark Nidenko, a Bible Society staff member in Victoria to speak to the Assembly. Mark has replaced Jan Peddersen who has recently retired after long and faithful service to the Bible Society in Victoria.

While Bible Society Australia has not set up a mechanism for relating to denominational bodies as such it certainly desires to make contact with individuals, congregations and groups within congregations. Contact with the Bible Society and access to its reports and prayer material can be made through its website and its publications.

Bible Society staff who are available for visits to parishes and church organisations in Victoria are Geoff Warren and Mark Nidenko.

Keith D Allen
BIBLE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE

BOARD OF INVESTMENT AND FINANCE (Min. 29)

Background

The Board of Investment and Finance (the Board) is elected by the General Assembly. Its regulations are approved by the General Assembly, as for any other committee. The Board consists of ten members, each of whom is required to retire after 5 years from date of appointment but is eligible for re-election for a second 5 year term. Members of the Board form the membership of the Trusts Corporation.

The duties of the Board are to:

- Administer the financial affairs of, and act as Treasurer of, the General Assembly.
- Maintain the office of the General Assembly including engaging staff for this purpose.
- Co-operate with other committees of the Assembly in the appointment of office or other staff and determine the salary conditions and employment of such staff.
- Present to the Commission of the Assembly a recommended budget for approval.
- Manage the property of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for which responsibility is not vested in another committee.
- Take steps to prevent committees from incurring expenditure beyond their means or in unauthorised ways.
- Approve urgent applications for the sale, mortgage or lease of property.
- Hold the proceeds of sale of property in the Sites Reserve account and approve applications for the use of interest and (in conjunction with presbyteries) the use of capital.
- Administer the Capital Fund including the approval of loans from the fund.

Membership of the Board of Investment and Finance (and Trusts Corporation)

Membership and committee responsibilities in the past year were as follows:

Mr Edward de Zilwa	Chairman, Audit Committee
Mr Tony Arnold	Investment Committee
Mr Iain Bramley	Vice-Chairman, Investment Committee (convener)
Mr David Brown	Vice-Chairman, Audit Committee (to May 2014)
Mr Geoff Cox	Audit Committee
Rev Stephen Deroon	Represents the Board on various church committees
Mr Matthew Duke	Audit Committee (convener from June 2014)
Mr Andrew Letcher	Secretary, Investment Committee
Rev Mark Smith	Audit Committee
Rev Andrew Venn	Investment Committee

Rev Andrew Venn completes his five year term at the end of the Assembly, and is not available to serve for another term. He has served on the Investment Committee as well as a number of other ad hoc committees.

Mr David Brown resigned in May 2014 after more than five years as a member of the Board. He served as vice-chairman from December 2012, and was on the Audit Committee where he was convener for a number of years, as well as serving on a number of ad hoc committees.

Both Rev Venn and Mr Brown have contributed generously with their time and talents in the service of the Board, the Trusts Corporation and the wider church. We thank God for all that they have done.

Mr Jerry Tharapos and Rev Barry Oakes have been nominated to fill the vacancies arising and we are confident that each of them will be worthy replacements:

Mr Jerry Tharapos BCom, CPA has recently been appointed as Service and Operations Manager for the Flint Group. Prior to that he worked as an Executive Consultant to Goodyear Dunlop Tyres, and for four years in China with Eastman Kodak. He is an active member of the Eltham congregation and was formerly Secretary to the Board of Management. He is also a member of the Board of St Andrews Christian College including Chairman of its Finance Committee.

Rev Barry Oakes BBus, MTax, BTh, BMin, MA, is the minister at Ashburton and has served on the Theological Education Committee since 2006. Prior to entering the PCV Theological College he was employed in various positions in the finance and banking industry. Rev Oakes has worked in corporate banking generally, and has experience in project financing.

Mr Edward de Zilwa is at the end of his current five year term and is re-nominated for a further term. He is Chairman of the Board and the Trusts Corporation and serves on the Audit Committee, as well as a number of other ex-officio positions.

Church Office

The Board is grateful to God as well as to the persons involved for the efficient and cheerful operation of the Office of the General Assembly under the leadership of Mr Michael Ellison, General Manager. The work of all, including Mr John Vandenberg, Accountant, Mrs Ros Grant, Administrative Assistant and Mrs Sharee Barnett, part-time book-keeper, is much appreciated.

After 29 years service in the General Office, Mrs Ros Grant has announced her retirement effective from 10 October 2014. The Board expresses its gratitude to Ros for her many years of service to the church and wishes her well for the future.

Administrative Services

As well as processing the payroll for all Assembly and committee staff, the office provides an optional payroll service to congregations. Under this arrangement, the office will make all payments and deductions relating to a minister's remuneration. This is intended to relieve a local treasurer of the burdens that come with administration and compliance associated with the payment of the stipend, NCB and superannuation. The service is offered free of charge.

Almost fifty ministers as well as six PIM staff are currently being paid under this system.

In addition to that assistance, the office has been providing book-keeping services for the congregation at Kirkbrae and the Deaf congregation. The office is also providing book-keeping services for another congregation for a monthly fee.

Honoraria

The Board recommends that honoraria paid to the Deputy Clerk and Business Convener be revised in accordance with the normal practice based on the CPI to the

following amounts:

Deputy Clerk	\$2,675
Business Convener	\$830

In accordance with the Code 5.16c the Board has fixed the Law Agent's retainer for the 2014/15 year at \$31,000.

Sites Reserve Accounts

The Sites Reserve Account holds funds which are the proceeds of sale of church property. The following is a summary of movements in the accounts for the year:

	2013/14	2012/13
	\$	\$
Balance at 1 July	17,679,733	16,519,205
Plus		
Deposits from Sale of Property	1,383,288	1,620,386
Interest & Other Income	1,193,374	1,166,728
Capital Gain/(Loss) on Separate Investments	758,648	1,033,182
Less		
Capital purchases / works as per BIF Reg10 (b)(i)	(1,763,709)	(2,065,647)
Any other purpose as per BIF 10 (b) (ii)	(48,500)	(68,190)
Interest paid to congregations BIF Reg 10 (a)	(524,378)	(525,931)
Balance at 30 June	18,678,456	17,679,733

The Board awaits the report and recommendations of the ad hoc Sites Reserve committee which was constituted at the October 2011 General Assembly.

Capital Fund

The interest rate charged on Capital Fund loans is 3.0% a year. The costs of funds borrowed from the Trusts Corporation is 6.5% a year. The surplus of \$87,944 for the year was transferred to the Property Development Fund (2013 \$83,924). A summary of accounts in relation to the Capital Fund follows:

	2013/14	2012/13
	\$	\$
Receipts		
Interest on loans to congregations	80,355	81,883
Interest from Common Fund	182,010	177,683
Other Investment Income	2,310	3,091
Total Income	264,675	262,657
Payments		
Interest paid on loans from Common Fund	174,843	176,953
Interest paid on depositors funds	1,637	1,780
Other expenses	250	0
Grant to Property Development Fund	87,944	83,924
Total Expenditure	264,675	262,657
Surplus	0	0
Balance of Capital Fund Reserve	1,497,535	1,497,308
Deposits held for congregations, PWMU, etc	82,660	88,426
Loans to Congregations and Schools	2,853,643	2,585,420

The Capital Fund continues to have considerable capacity to lend to congregations, and welcomes applications for appropriate projects. Monthly repayments for new loan applications are calculated based on an interest rate of 3% over 20 years. The maximum loan amount is \$1 million.

Assembly Rate

The Board recommends that a zero rate be set for the 2015-16 year.

Property matters

Since the last meeting of the Assembly approval has been given under BIF Reg. 9 (a) for the following urgent property transactions

- Lease of manse sites at Malvern, Noorat and Warrnambool

Ministers' Holiday Housing

We commend Mr Ben Palmer's administration of this scheme that is evidently much appreciated by serving ministers who may benefit from it for a week each year.

Additional Expenditure

Since reporting to the Commission of Assembly in May 2014, the Board has approved an amendment to the TEC library budget of an additional \$4,000 for magazines and journals.

Proceeds of sale of property relating to deceased congregations

In accordance with BIF regulation 10(d) the Board approved the allocation of the proceeds of the sale of the Woolsthorpe property as follows:

- a) \$18,095 to Koroit/Port Fairy to replace the roof on the manse;
- b) \$24,750 to Terang for repairs to the slate roof;
- c) \$25,782 to Koroit for internal toilets;
- d) the balance if any to be transferred to the Property Development fund; net of any applicable GST in each case, with the proviso that the funds must be applied to the nominated project within 24 months.

Emergency Funding

The Board approved expenditure for consultancy fees and professional services in relation to the Ad Hoc Committee to Review the Breaking the Silence policy under the emergency provisions authorised by the Assembly in 2005 (Minute 83.5, Blue book p.88). The expense was first to be met from the residual funds from the Violet Norma Sanders Trust donation (\$5,000 in December 2012) and then from General Assembly funds. The total expense was \$13,715.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN

General Assembly

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

General Mission Programme	197,270
Common Fund Interest	539,881
Management Fees	151,655
Scots Church Properties Trust	67,786
Sundry Income	7,278
Archival Fees	577
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	(156)
Total Income	<u>964,293</u>

Expenditure:

Accounting and Audit Fees	24,016
Personnel	500,792
Grants Paid	11,713
General Mission Programme Distributions	197,270
Office	20,908
Legal Expenses	355,628
Insurances	3,821
Safe Church Unit	14,138
Property	2,483
General Assembly	109,052
Archives & Historic Records	52,340
Total Expenditure	<u>1,292,161</u>

Surplus on General Operations

(327,868)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	3,845,772
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(327,868)
Add back depreciation	1,571
Aitken Bequest transferred from Unallocated	28,129
Decrease / (Increase) in Current Assets	(37,453)
Decrease / (Increase) in Fixed Assets	(2,616)
(Decrease) / Increase in Current Liabilities	95,728
(Decrease) / Increase in Non-Current Liabilities	(46,140)
Balance 30/6/14	3,557,122

Perpetual Funds

<u>Balance 30/6/14</u>	2,286,996
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General Assembly

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	<u>Beneficiary Trusts</u>	<u>Special Trusts</u>	<u>Unallocated</u>
Income:			
Pres-AID Donations		91,531	
Interest Capital Fund Loans		80,355	
Common Fund Interest	580,898	352,998	76,039
Other Investment Income	99,002	2,310	
Rental Ministers' Holiday Homes	10,531		
Unrealised Gain/(Loss) on Investments	153,035		
Total Income	843,465	527,195	76,039
Expenditure:			
Grants	17,380	194,727	-
Moderator's Expenses		20,366	
Accounting & Legal Fees	2,912	250	-
Insurance Risk Management		23,630	
Interest Expense - Capital Fund		176,480	
Pensions Ministers & Widows	2,700		
Rental Assistance	12,500		
Superannuation	11,815	32,200	
Ministers' Holiday Homes Expenses	99,702		
Expenses for Missionaries on Home Assignment		11,997	
Total Expenditure	147,010	459,651	-
<u>Surplus on Specific Trusts</u>	696,456	67,544	76,039
<u>Movements in Funds</u>			
Balance 1/7/13	4,438,992	3,131,608	633,971
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	696,456	67,544	76,039
Movement in Pres-Aid fund owing		210	
Aitken Bequest transferred to General			(28,129)
Increase/(Decrease) in Capital Fund Deposits		(5,763)	
(Increase)/Decrease in Separate Investments	(228,609)	5,990	
Accrued Interest - Capital Fund Loans		-	
Balance 30/6/14	4,906,839	3,199,589	681,881
Separately Invested Funds - Donaldson Trust	1,412,934		
Separately Invested Funds - Capital Fund		83,675	
<u>Perpetual Funds</u>			
<u>Balance 30/6/14</u>	426,457		

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE (Min. 48)

The committee has again had a busy year, advising and assisting congregations with various building matters. Again, the committee has been greatly helped in its work by the able advice and assistance of the Church Architect, Mr Les Oliver, whose invaluable advice is essential to the effective operation of the committee.

Review of Minimum Manse Standards

The Assembly's current Minimum Manse Standards were approved in 1986, and have been overdue for review and updating to meet changed standards and expectations. The committee has, with much assistance from Les Oliver in his role as Church Architect completed its review of these standards, and presents the revised and updated document, which is included in the committee's proposed deliverance, for the approval of the Assembly.

The committee believes that the revised Minimum Manse Standards are self-explanatory – but if members have questions or comments regarding what is proposed, and especially if such questions or comments are of a technical nature, could they please put these in writing to me as early as possible so that I can seek the assistance of the Church Architect, as I may not be able to give satisfactory answers if such matters are raised in the General Assembly without prior notice.

One proposed change that may need comment is the inclusion of a standard for upgrading of existing manses when extensive works are proposed; the committee is proposing that the Assembly adopt the widely accepted industry standard in such matters, that is, that when an existing manse is altered or extended to 50% or more of its volume, that the whole building be brought up to current '6 Star' standard. The committee believes that this is reasonable, and that it would be useful to congregations considering major upgrading of manses to have such a standard to work from.

Maintenance of Manses

Under its present regulations, the committee has no responsibility for the maintenance of existing manses unless a congregation proposes alterations or additions. However, the Church Architect, who has had occasion to inspect many existing manses, has raised the maintenance of existing manses with the committee as a matter of concern, and so the committee wishes to bring it to the Assembly.

The Church Architect wrote to the committee:

From the various manses I have inspected over the years there is clearly a huge disparity between each in terms of the facilities provided and the standard of finish. Given that many of these properties were purchased or constructed long before the current 1984 Manse Standards were prepared, the comfort levels and degree of current compliance varies considerably. The problem is how do we go about tackling this issue.

I have given a bit of thought to the problem and have listed below some ideas and suggestions that you all might like to comment on individually:

- *An accreditation system is required to ensure all the manse properties are assessed against the minimum manse standards. Manses that have been in place for a considerable period of time and may once have met acceptable*

standards when they were acquired are unlikely to be considered acceptable today, unless they have undergone significant improvement in the interim period.

- I think all the manses should be accessed on a regular basis. Initially to establish whether they are currently compliant and also to establish the areas where they are deficient and then inspected again at regular intervals to confirm they are being adequately maintained.*
- Manse properties should have a comprehensive inspection every 5 years. These inspections would best be carried out by someone with a building industry background and could include a Building Contractor, Architect, Building Designer, Building Surveyor or experienced qualified tradesman.*
- The inspections would be designed to ensure the property retains an adequate standard for occupation by a manse family and is being maintained to a suitable standard.*
- A checklist could be provided for completion by a qualified person representing the associated church or someone appointed by them. Attaining full compliance for some of the older properties may be prohibitively expensive in some cases and there will need to be degree of leniency provided. Adequate insulation is one area that comes to mind. To attain the current BCA requirement of 6 stars for a new home requires insulation to the walls, ceilings and floors. This can be difficult especially for the floors, depending on sub-floor access. I have attached a brochure relating to sub-floor insulation designed for an existing timber floor.*
- A Manse Survey checklist currently exists (copy attached), but I think it needs to be reformatted. The focus is currently on 'what exists' rather than 'is it serviceable' or 'efficient', although it does establish conditions for some finishes.*
- Energy costs are becoming a significant cost to home occupants and the need to achieve high thermal ratings is crucial. The cost of heating and cooling a poorly insulated house can be prohibitive. Encouraging some of the older constructed manses to install solar panels to provide electricity would be one way of off-setting these costs especially where insulation to the walls or floor is impractical.*
- Water usage costs are another area of growing concern. Rainwater tanks for flushing toilets, laundry use and watering gardens is a way of reducing this cost.*
- Manse properties should be inspected at time of a vacancy to ensure they are of an acceptable standard for the incoming manse family or exit student. Sometimes it appears as though people assume everything is fine because the previous minister hasn't left a list of complaints or issues that need resolving.*
- A maintenance schedule should be prepared for each manse and cover at least the following aspects:*

- *Floor finish condition including carpet, tiles, sheet vinyl and polished floor boards - nominate anticipated date and cost for replacement/renewal.*
- *Wall finish condition including plasterboard, tiles and paint - nominate anticipated date and cost for repainting and minor repairs.*
- *Roof weather tightness – expected life of roof sheeting; timeframe for re-mortaring ridges, hips and valleys; condition and expected life of roof guttering and downpipes and flashings to any roof penetrations.*
- *Weatherboards – schedule repairs as required. Ensure regularly cleaned to extend life between repainting.*
- *External painting and repairs – record when last painted and when scheduled to repaint. Especially important for weatherboard buildings, but also needed for brick buildings where fascia and barge boards, posts, gable ends etc will need repainting and/or repair.*
- *Windows – ensure opening sashes are operating, are fitted with locks and flywire screens. Schedule for replacement of screens and repair of sashes, locks catches etc.*
- *Lighting and power – have globes been changed to low energy type. Are all operating properly? Should thermally protected power outlets be fitted?*
- *Disabled access to the property – assess degree of difficulty in providing if not currently possible. Review tripping hazards, external steps and landings, railings, balustrades, etc.*
- *Paving and paths – ensure no tripping hazards; access to front and rear doors; access to clothesline, garden shed, garage etc. Assess potential for property to be flooded.*
- *Appliances – expected replacement timeframe for cook top, oven, range hood, dishwasher, HWS, heater, a/c units, etc. – focus on replacement energy rating of appliances rather than on purchase cost of item where possible.*
- *Building Services – condition of water and gas piping; electrical wiring and compliance of electrical switchboard; circuit breakers, safety switches and Residual Current Devices (RCDs); condition of stormwater drains; condition/issues with sewer drainage or septic system; provision of telephone line, internet? Etc.*
- *Fencing – condition of boundary fencing and anticipated date and cost of replacing. Condition of street fence and vehicle gates if applicable.*
- *Garage/carport – ensure remote control door is operating if fitted. Check condition of floor slab; ensure lighting is adequate; safe travel to house; adequate capacity etc.*

The maintenance lists can be endless, but it is important to ensure each board of management has a mechanism for monitoring each property's needs and ensure a maintenance budget is established so that urgent tasks are not left unattended.

Under the rules of the church, boards of management are responsible for the maintenance of manses, and presbyteries have a general responsibility for the care of congregational property.

Care of property

2.30. The congregation's board of management is responsible for caring for all congregational property, and for maintaining the place of worship and other church buildings in good condition and repair, subject to the law of the church and the jurisdiction and directions of its courts (see rules 2.43, 88–91).

General responsibility of Presbytery

4.91. In addition to its responsibility for the particular matters referred to in the preceding rules of this chapter, the presbytery has a general responsibility and duty relative to the well-being of the church and its work, and of the congregations, and all congregational property, organisations and activities, within its jurisdiction.

To this end it exercises a general oversight of congregational affairs and of the interests of the church within its bounds.

The committee believes that boards and presbyteries would be greatly assisted in these responsibilities if the Minimum Manse Standards had a third section, 'Maintenance and Upgrading of Existing Manses', with the following clauses being framed in the form of guidelines and recommendations to boards of management and presbyteries for the regular maintenance of manses and the review of manses with a view to, as far as practicable, bringing them into compliance with the current minimum standards, especially in terms of heating/cooling, insulation etc..

The committee therefore in its proposed deliverance asks the Assembly to approve its preparing such an additional section for the Minimum Manse Standards and its bringing them (if possible) to the May 2015 Commission of Assembly, or, if that is not possible, to the October 2015 General Assembly for approval.

Assessment of Manses for Exit and other appointments

The committee has been asked by the Ministry Development Committee if it would be open to assisting it improve its services to ministers by either taking over from it or assist it with the assessing of the suitability of manses associated with parish applications for an exit student appointment. This is at present part of its responsibility before forwarding acceptable applications to the Exit Student Committee.

The Ministry Development Committee has also suggested that 'all manses for new appointments, not only exit appointments but also home missionary and even potentially ministerial calls or appointments, might be required to obtain an internal "certificate of occupancy" issued by your committee before an appointment is made. An appointment would be conditional upon this certificate.'

The committee is open to assisting with the assessment of manses in connection with exit and home missionary appointments, and suggests that it might work as follows:

1. The Ministry Development Committee would ask the committee (through its convener) to report on the condition and general suitability of manses for proposed appointments;
2. The committee would refer such requests to the Church Architect, who would either inspect it himself and report to the committee, or, in cases where it was impractical for him to inspect it himself, arrange for or approve of some other suitably qualified person to inspect and report. Depending on the complexity of the matter and the time involved, there may be a cost associated with such a report, which would be borne by the congregation.
3. The committee would then take appropriate action in response to this report, including advising the Ministry Development Committee of the report and liaising with the board of management regarding necessary repairs, renovations etc., and, after due process including, if necessary, further inspection and report, ultimately approving or disapproving the suitability of the manse for the proposed appointment.

This would require a change to the committee's regulations. However, the committee believes that any such change would be better framed if it were made after the proposal had been tested in practice, and so the committee is in its proposed deliverance asking the Assembly to approve its assisting the Ministry Development Committee with the assessing of the suitability of manses associated with parish applications for an exit student appointment or the appointment of a home missionary with a view to further report to the 2015 General Assembly, and a possible request for a change to its regulations.

Peter Phillips
CONVENER

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND NURTURE COMMITTEE (Min. 78)

Having taken over as convener while still a new comer on the committee, I am very grateful to the continuing members who have given me a lot of support and who have continued to exercise their responsibilities with care and diligence. In particular I want to thank outgoing convener Scott Kroeger, who is now shouldering responsibilities as Secretary, Anne Harvey, who until recently served as Secretary, and Robert White, who took over from Matt James as Treasurer last year.

I am also grateful to be able to welcome new members David Assender, who has taken over the role as CENC representative to the PYV Council and Mairi Girgis, who has taken over the role of supervising the Women's Ministries portfolio. I note that we have three vacancies.

We continue to enjoy the outstanding professional assistance of Brian Harvey as the PCV's state Director of Youth Ministries, and Sonja Otto who works part-time to provide administrative support to Brian and to the PYV.

Youth Ministries Director

Brian Harvey

The last year has been an exciting one for PYV and for my work within the church. I have enjoyed working with a terrific PYV council and continue to enjoy the support of CENC. The PYV camping ministry continues to have an impact, for which we thank God.

During the 2013-14 Summer Camp we looked at the work of the Holy Spirit. Rev Nello Barbieri based his messages on Romans 8 to show how vital the work of the Spirit is in our lives.

Our Regional Camps in 2014 are using the book of Habakkuk. We have enjoyed exciting messages from Rev Mark Smith and Rev Toby McIntosh at West and East camps respectively, and by the time of GAV, we will have heard Rev Stuart Withers at North Camp. Our young people have been exposed to some deep truths of God's sovereignty through these messages and studies.

I add that it has been both exciting and encouraging to see people coming to camp for the first time; and to see some coming to camp as the only teenager in their church family. We believe that the camps provide a terrific opportunity for people to meet together from all kinds of churches.

In January 2014, we were again delighted to be involved with Engage'14. This youth leaders conference is proving itself to be incredibly helpful and challenging for our leaders as they learn to wrestle with the scriptural text and then teach it effectively. We believe there will be good fruit from this conference.

Presbyterian Youth of Victoria Council

PYV Council Convener, Nic Bilyj

2014 has been a very exciting and encouraging year, with multiple new members to our council and leadership team. A big thanks to Rev Brian Harvey in his role as Youth Ministries Director, it has been such a support to have a person like Brian in this role, who is so competent in what he does. He has so much initiative and wisdom in the way that he ministers to churches and youth, with a real heart for spreading the gospel and equipping youth to lead in their own churches by using effective ministry tools.

Sonja Otto has been a wonderful asset as Admin officer with huge amounts of experience serving and being a part of PYV for so many years.

A great big thanks to the rest of the council for all the incredible amounts of work and commitment to serving on PYV council for God's glory, and particular note goes to Joe Dunning who has done an amazing role as treasurer over the last few years. He really will be missed by us and the church office as he has done such a wonderful job. All the best to Joe and his wife as they embark on an inland mission.

It has been fantastic to see the fruits of changes made to the camping structure over the last few years, with an intentional change to spread significantly smaller camps around the state making them much more accessible in terms of distance and cost to churches around the state. The result of this has been wonderful with so many new faces appearing at these camps and kids from all over the countryside getting together and praising our Lord, searching the scriptures and building friendships. It's especially wonderful to see the encouragement it is for kids from country churches who are the only youth in their church. They see they are not alone and build friendships with youth from all over the place.

It was so exciting for me on the last East Camp to be able to teach a study group again for the first time in about 6-7 years and to see the quality of the upcoming leaders in the next few years. What a blessing it is to know that the upcoming youth leaders of the PCV are so passionate, excited and able to teach God's word.

Another exciting PYV endeavour at the moment is a series of training evenings. These are aimed at those in youth ministry, but could be helpful to almost any avenue of ministry.

The Importance of Purpose was run by Rev Brian Harvey at Heathmont Presbyterian Church in August.

Up-and-coming training evenings (at the time of writing) are:

- Wednesday 17th Sep 2014 at Reservoir Presbyterian Church on The Importance of Evangelism by Rev Nello Barbieri
- Tuesday 21st Oct 2014 at Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church on The Importance of Discipleship by Rev John Huynh.

You can register for these events on the PYV website. These events are being video recorded and will be available on the website if you are interested but cannot make it on the night.

I would like to really encourage you all to make use of these ministry tools and to pass the word to anyone you think may benefit.

We are incredibly thankful for the support from so many committees of the Presbyterian Church. We want to thank CENC for their guidance and wisdom, as well as financial support. A heartfelt thank you is due to the Social Services Committee for their generosity and encouragement. They have assisted so many people in need of support to come to PYV events and have gone over and above what has been asked of them. It certainly has not gone unnoticed and we are truly thankful. There are also numerous congregations who have supported us through use of their facilities and

even fed us sometimes, this has been a real blessing. Thanks also to the METRO committee for their partnership in developing quality leaders through YouthMetro (it's amazing seeing the passion and drive from the youth participating in this), and the Assembly for their prayers and encouragement.

See For Yourself (SFY)

Hui Lim

We are happy to report that SFY is now available on DVD and anyone who ordered one at last year's General Assembly should now have received it. It is with much thanksgiving to God, that 4 years of Student and Teacher materials are readily available in a single DVD. Special thanks to the Rev Michael Wishart who was SFY portfolio holder for many years, and his team of volunteer proof-readers who worked hard to produce the final edited copy of SFY on DVD.

We are now seeking out Christian book shops that might be interested in retailing these DVDs, and Christian schools that might wish to purchase a number from us. A primary version of SFY is currently been worked on by Rev Neil Benfell.

Women's Ministries Victoria

Anne Harvey

The start of 2014 saw Women's Ministries begin our 'On The Road' days. We are very grateful to Rev Dr Douglas Milne who has agreed to speak at all the events. Our planning involves visiting the Presbyteries of Gippsland, Kilnoorat, North Western Vic and Melbourne North. The days we have run up to this point have all been very well attended by both men and women, and have been a real source of encouragement and challenge to all.

At the June CENC meeting Mrs Anne Harvey resigned from her portfolio with Women's Ministries and as Secretary of CENC. We are pleased to announce Mrs Mairi Girgis has accepted an invitation to join the CENC Committee and has taken up the portfolio of Women's Ministries.

2014 Catechism Exam

Brian Harvey

Members of the assembly will remember that at the Commission in May, I gave out postcards for the "See For Yourself Q&A". I was excited to see so many take the cards and to see this done so enthusiastically. This seemed to suggest there would be a good number of students getting involved. However, this wasn't to be the case.

Fourteen exams have been returned to me, and by the time of GAV those prizes should have been received. I am thankful that there were a small group of people ready to be involved in this exam, and pray that they have learned something good. But it suggests that more needs to be done if we want our young people to learn the catechism.

18-30 Retreat

Scott Kroeger

The past couple of successful 18-30 Conferences have been successful enough that the CENC is seeking to establish the future of them through the creation of a similar body organisationally as that of the PYV. We have secured a couple who are interested in this and are currently approaching a few other couples who are interested in forming a governing steering committee that will ultimately have its own constitution and budget. The purpose of this group is aimed at the post PYV young professional adults with a focus on developing their gifts and skill sets for further service in their local churches and presbyteries.

It is anticipated that there will be at least one annual conference, along with other activities and workshops that are deemed worthy during the year. Pray for those involved in the setting up and development of this exciting body.

Engage

This is a new ministry that has been brought to Victoria using training material provided on license by Katoomba Christian Convention. It focuses specifically on ministry training for young adults.

It grew initially out of the work of PYV, with Nello Barbieri and Joy Venning being closely involved in establishing and running the first of what is hoped to be annual camps. For this reason it has come under the superintendence of the CENC and Nello has attended a couple of our meetings to explain what it's about and what its future aspirations are.

As we understand it, Katoomba's license for the use of the material is contingent upon this ministry being run as a non-denominational ministry and the Victorian committee that has been established has been structured to satisfy that requirement, with members drawn from several denominations.

For the moment, CENC has agreed to support this ministry for three years with a small financial donation and allowing its accounts to be managed under our accounts, but it is our expectation that after that it will be established as a separate organisation with its own constitution.

Douglas Robertson
CONVENER

Christian Education & Nurture

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	87,981
Womens Ministry Income	982
Total Income	88,963

Expenditure:

Seminars	2,733
Office	86
PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	47,339
Grants to PYV	18,448
Committee Expenses	2,453
Total Expenditure	71,059

Surplus on General Operations

17,905

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	462,627
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	17,905
Add back depreciation	59
Assets (bought)/sold	697
Balance 30/6/14	481,288

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/14	268,250
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Allan Trust

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	68,376
See For Yourself	727
Total Income	69,102

Expenditure:

PYV Youth Worker Subsidy	39,000
See For Yourself - Design and Production	2,787
Prizes	2,562
Total Expenditure	44,349

Surplus on Specific Trusts

24,754

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	536,341
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	24,754
Balance 30/6/14	561,095

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/14	27,852
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Presbyterian Youth in Victoria

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Equipment Hire	982
Donations	3,769
Fundraising for Campers	1,500
CENC Subsidies	86,300
Common Fund Interest	49,518
Total Income	<u>142,069</u>

Expenditure:

Activities Deficit/(Surplus)	
Youth Leaders Conference	5,147
East State Camp	(833)
West State Camp	532
North State Camp	(373)
Family Camp	(937)
Summer Camp	1,346
Merchandising	546
Computer & Software	1,779
Depreciation	1,670
Insurance	2,460
Personnel Expenses	106,256
Office and Administration Expenses	16,173
Total Expenditure	<u>133,768</u>

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

8,301

Movements in Funds

	Common Fund	Paypal	Total
Balance 1/7/13	146,245	0	146,245
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)			8,301
Add back Depreciation			1,670
Decrease/(Increase) Current Assets			(803)
Assets (Purchased)/Disposed			(1,612)
Balance 30/6/14	148,701	5,101	153,802

Perpetual Funds

<u>Balance 30/6/14</u>	268,250
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CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE (Min. 108)

Federal Matters

Same Sex Marriage

Previously, the GAA has declared that “same-sex marriage” will never be truly marriage and called on members of the church to ‘oppose the introduction of any legislation for so-called “same-sex marriage”’. State and Federal Church and Nation committees have been vociferous in their opposition to SSM, and along with many presbyterians, have articulated those concerns in submissions, letters and phone calls to parliamentary members.

At this stage, Labor and Greens support SSM and the Coalition went to the last election favouring traditional marriage. While the Prime Minister has said he will not introduce legislation to amend the Marriage Act, there are a significant number of Liberal and National MPs who support changes, or who might be persuaded to support them. So it is not easy to predict the outcome if the present Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Tanya Plibersek, carries through with her stated intention to introduce a bill to change the Act. Therefore, while so-called “same-sex marriage” is not inevitable, we should seriously consider the possibility of it being introduced.

If the Marriage Act is changed unsatisfactorily, it is important that the GAA respond with clarity and conviction. To that end, the GAA Church and Nation Committee recently adopted the following position to take to the GAA 2016 “...to pursue the withdrawal of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, from the Marriage Act, if Marriage were redefined in order to include or provide for same-gender marriage.”

And while it is entirely possible that we may be overtaken by events, it seems prudent that the GAA Church and Nation Committee engage consultatively with the PCV to consider four potential responses.

If SSM was to become lawful:

1. The Church could *continue* as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act and *recommend* that ministers continue as celebrants as long as they are not required to solemnise same-sex marriages.
[The church would protest the possible introduction of changes to the Marriage Act, but once the Act was changed it would continue to operate under the Act, as long as ministers had freedom to refuse same-sex ceremonies.]
2. The Church could *continue* as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act and *advise* ministers who have a conscientious objection to remaining as celebrants how they might withdraw from registration.
[Individual ministers are not required to be registered as celebrants and so are always free to withdraw their registration. However, if so-called “same-sex marriage” were introduced, the Church could recognise the concerns that might lead to ministers withdrawing and offer advice and support to those who choose to do so.]
3. The Church could *advise* and *encourage* ministers to *withdraw* as celebrants, but continue as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act.
[This option may seem to send mixed messages. It would allow ministers who wished to continue as celebrants to do so as ministers of the Presbyterian

Church, while stating the view that ministers should withdraw. If all ministers did so, the church might subsequently cancel its own status under the Act.]

4. *The Church could withdraw as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act and establish a form of ecclesiastical marriage.*

[This option is the preferred position of the GAA Church and Nation Committee and would see the Presbyterian Church of Australia withdraw entirely from the Marriage Act. A form of ecclesiastical marriage would have to be carefully designed. It may be that other Christian churches would wish to share in this, or at least establish mutual recognition of such marriages.]

It is the view of the GAA Church and Nation Committee that *we should consider, as a denomination, withdrawing from our position as marriage celebrants*, thereby refusing to take part in a new definition of marriage that will, by design, rob children of either a mother or father. Such a move would be seen as ‘taking a stand’ against a proposal that we believe is, not only both immoral and unbiblical, but also extremely unloving for all children involved and destabilising for society.

State Matters

It was decided to develop statements on a range of topics to serve a threefold purpose:

- a. guide committee submissions on various issues;
- b. foster a unity of views among those within the denomination;
- c. declare our position to those outside the denomination.

These statements should be clear, concise, easy-to-understand, and contain minimal jargon while remaining consistent with:

- a. the Bible;
- b. the Westminster Confession of Faith.

To date, the committee has developed the following statements concerning human rights and refugees.

Human Rights Statement

1. All human beings are made in God's image and likeness and are therefore afforded great dignity and intrinsic worth (Gen1:26ff). Being made by him and for him, human beings, along with all creation, exist for his glory (Col 1:16; Rom 11:36).
2. Because humans beings are image bearers, God's moral law places duties on them with respect to how they treat other ‘human beings’ (Exod 20:3-17; Deut 5:7-22 and Matt 22:36-40; 23:39). We can deduce from these duties what might be called human rights. For example, the right to worship (1st to 3rd), work and rest (4th); the right to a mother and father (5th); the right to life (6th); the right to be married (7th); the right to property (8th, 10th); the right to a fair trial (9th). The Presbyterian Church of Victoria believes that, for human rights to be valid, they need to be:
 - Universal – they apply to all people at all time.
 - Absolute – they cannot be abolished.
 - Non-derogable – because they are absolute they cannot be limited in any way, at any time, for any reason, even in time of a national emergency.

Human rights are different to, and take precedence over, selective rights. Selective rights are those rights that only apply to certain people, at certain times, in certain ways (e.g. rights based on ethnicity or sexuality).

3. Human rights include the right to life, liberty and security (Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 3). The right to life and security includes the right not to be killed, tortured, crippled, aborted, euthanased, eugenically removed or subjected to involuntary experimentation. The right to liberty includes the fundamental right to freedom of religion, conscience and speech (UDHR, Article 19). And, while not exhaustive, we recognise other human rights like the right to work and rest, own property and be given a fair trial (UDHR, Article 6-11, 17, 23-24).
4. Because human rights are ultimately derived from God, states do not establish human rights; rather, they recognise them. Established, recognised laws should enshrine universal human rights, and these are best upheld by a state with both limited powers and the ability to execute the rule of law. Accordingly, the state, instituted by God, should not be a terror to good conduct (Rom 13:1-7), and it is the role of the church to humbly remind the magistrate of this duty (WCF 31:5).

Refugee Statement

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria acknowledges:

- the challenges presented to governments by those seeking refuge by irregular means;
- it is lawful and prudent for a country to maintain its sovereignty.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria believes:

- it is incumbent on all citizens to promote the welfare of those within their territory;
- Christians have a duty to love and care for those in need (Phil 2:4);
- the treatment of asylum seekers should be governed by God's command to show kindness to those in need (Zech 7:9-10).

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria urges governments to:

- where possible, both process and accommodate asylum seekers domestically;
- ensure asylum seekers are treated humanely;
- keep processing time-frames reasonable;
- avoid unnecessary delays to legitimacy claims;
- provide access to all benefits and privileges commensurate with recognised citizens when and where refugee status is granted.

The Presbyterian Church of Victoria commits to:

- address the physical and spiritual needs of refugees as opportunity and resources permit;
- give 'honour to whom honour is owed' (Rom13:7 ESV);
- pray for 'kings and all who are in high positions' (1Tim 2:2 ESV).

Religion in the Public Square Colloquium – Aug. 7-8, 2015.

On August 7-8 in 2015 your Church and Nation Committee will be holding the biannual Colloquium 'Religion in The Public Square'. However, due to increasing

numbers, we have decided to hold the 2015 event in the Werner Brodbeck Hall, with refreshments in the Robert White Hall.

We are pleased to announce Dr Scott Rae will be returning and will address issues of vocation and morality including work as ministry (a theology of work and calling); business and the common good; market economics (human equality and the image of God) and the trend toward infanticide (after birth abortion).

Other speakers will cover a host of other issues, and we hope to have all the details and advertising ready by the Commission of Assembly in 2015.

Submissions and Letters

The Committee has made two government submissions relating to the 'Recognition of Foreign Marriages Bill 2014' and the 'Australian Curriculum Review 2014'. Additionally, we have written letters to Members of Parliament concerning the following matters:

- Safe Schools (concerning the promotion of homosexuality and transgenderism to combat bullying)
- MD 141 (concerning the prohibition of certain non-SRI activities in schools)
- Persecution of Christians (Iraq in particular)
- Iraq refugees (consideration of accepting Christian refugees from Iraq)

Persecuted Christians

The committee continues to be concerned about the plight of Christians in other nations who are undergoing persecution; particularly in Iraq and Syria as well as many other nations.

The committee is continuing to look at ways in which we as Presbyterians can assist those overseas who are suffering for their faith. However, we believe there are many opportunities for Christian churches to minister to refugees in very practical ways and would commend sessions and presbyteries to see this as part of seeking the "welfare of their city".

Committee Finances

During the 2013/14 fiscal year Church and Nation Committee produced another surplus. The 2014/15 budget is expected to run a deficit largely due to the expenses of running the Colloquium. However, given our fiscal restraint in the non-Colloquium years, this should not pose a concern for the Assembly.

Researcher

The committee changed the description of Mrs Fleur Letcher's position from 'Research Assistant' to 'Researcher', as well as making it a permanent part-time position.

Mrs Letcher continues to exceed our expectations in the depth and quality of her work, and has been a wonderful addition to the committee. We thank God for her gifts and work.

Membership of the Committee

All members of the committee have been regular in their attendance. There are, however, vacancies on the committee that could be filled.

Same-sex debacle

If same-sex marriage is legalised, Christian ministers must hand in their marriage licenses

Campbell Markham

In June 2013 I surveyed Australian Presbyterian ministers about same-sex “marriage”, and most thought that the definition of marriage in our Commonwealth Marriage Act would change within the next five years. Five years is now looking sanguine.

This confronts us with a serious issue. Ministers are registered as marriage celebrants under the Act. And so if things keep going the way they are, we will become registered celebrants of a different definition of marriage from the one we are registered under now. What should we do if and when the legal rug is shifted beneath our feet?

Before we get to that question, we should review the arguments against same-sex marriage, which are many and plain and well known:

First, it implicitly sanctions homosexual practice, which is explicitly condemned in the Bible (Lev. 18:22; 20:13; Rom. 1:26-27; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; 1 Tim. 1:10; Jude 1:7).

Second, it perverts Jesus’ definition of marriage: “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh” (Mat. 19:5).

Third, it undermines the God-given family structure: one man and one woman with any children that they have conceived, or adopted.

Fourth, it breaks the prima facie right of children to know, and be raised by, their natural parents. The right to marry is a compound right, which includes the right to bear children. A homosexual couple can only procure children with the assistance of a third-party gamete donor. This means conceiving children with the prior intention of removing them from either or both of their natural parents. This is manifestly unjust, and contradicts the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1990).

“Perversely, same-sex marriage legislation will normalise the very practice condemned by these apologies.”

Article 7 of that convention says: “The child shall be registered immediately after birth and shall have the right from birth to a name, the right to acquire a nationality and, as far as possible, the right to know and be cared for by his or her parents.” And Article 9 states: “A child shall not be separated from his or her parents against their will, except when competent authorities subject to judicial review determine, in accordance with applicable law and procedures, that such separation is necessary for the best interests of the child.”

Recently a number of Australian parliaments have apologised for forced adoptions, not only to mothers, but also to the children who were taken unnecessarily from their parents. Perversely, same-sex marriage legislation will normalise the very practice condemned by these apologies.

Donor-conceived children are also beginning to rail against the injustice of

this practice. Numerous painful testimonies are recorded in chapter 6 of the 2011 Australian Senate report *Donor Conception Practices in Australia*, as well as the Anonymo.us.org project.

Fifth, it will open the Pandora’s box to other perversions of marriage, including polygamy, polyamory, and incestuous marriages.

Sixth, it will strengthen the attack on religious freedoms. The moment same-sex marriage laws were passed in New Zealand, the Charities Commission notified the Family First Christian lobby group that it would be deregistered and lose its tax-exempt status, because it promotes “a point of view about family life that does not have a public benefit, (including) the view that the union of a man and a woman through marriage is the fundamental social unit.”

Seventh, it mutilates one of the clearest and most beautiful pictures of the Gospel. Many Christians say that they won’t protest against same-sex marriage because “it is not a gospel issue”. But God gave marriage to be a picture of the gospel (Eph. 5:25-27), and so a perversion of marriage is a perversion of the gospel.

Same-sex marriage is an immoral institution that will bring incalculable harm to our nation. That’s why we must pray hard that our political representatives will not succumb to it (1 Tim. 2:2), and tell them why we think it is wrong.

In any case an altered Marriage Act will advocate a particular view about marriage and sex and family. If it is changed to accommodate the practice of homosexual relationships, same-sex parenting, and third-party donor surrogacy, then it will reflect the legitimisation of these

practices. Social legitimacy is in fact a core reason why homosexual activists want same-sex marriage.

And so what should our ministers do if marriage is redefined to embrace the evils of same-sex marriage? The survey showed that most intend to retain their registration and go on marrying people “as normal”, so long as they are not compelled to “marry” same-sex couples. They draw a line not at the point of redefinition, but at the point of compulsion.

In August I wrote a paper for General Assembly of Australia 2013 arguing that we ought to resign our marriage registration at the point the law is changed. There are two aspects to my argument.

On the one hand, although I may feel that I can maintain my registration without personally endorsing the evils endorsed by the Act, how will this not cause outside observers to assume, by my formal allegiance, that I think the changed Act is acceptable?

No gospel minister is compelled to register under the Marriage Act. It is something we freely choose to do. If

you freely join the St Kilda Football Club, then you should expect to be seen as a supporter of that club.

Likewise it is impossible to see how a freely registered marriage celebrant of the Marriage Act would not be counted as someone who endorses the Act.

And so in *Quadrant* in June 2013 Christopher Akehurst argued that, in the event of marriage redefinition, Christian ministers should “withdraw from acting as a delegate of the state in conducting wedding ceremonies. To continue to do so would imply... acceptance of the new state-imposed definition of marriage”.

If this scenario parallels that of “eating meat sacrificed to idols” in 1 Corinthians 8, and I think it does, then love would compel us to give up our freedom to conduct marriages under a changed Act, so as not to “become a stumbling block for the weak”, and so as not to “wound their weak conscience” (1 Cor. 8:9,12).

On the other hand, Christians must not only not commit evil, we must not even associate with evil. If a redefined Marriage Act represents the legitimisation of the evils of homosexual practice, same-sex parenting, and third-party donor surrogacy, then as a Christian I will want nothing to do with it, and will separate myself by resigning my celebrant’s registration. As Psalm 26:4

“I would allow the couple (Christian or not) to register at a government office, and then I would conduct a Christian wedding service.”

says, “I do not sit with deceitful men, nor do I consort with hypocrites; I abhor the assembly of evildoers and refuse to sit with the wicked.”

How then will I marry people? In many nations, such as Singapore and France, Christian couples register their union with a civil servant for legal purposes, and then get married by a minister in a worship service. This is what I intend to do if the Marriage Act is changed. I would allow the couple (Christian or not) to register at a government office, and then I would conduct a Christian wedding service. I should add that I would not require a couple register at a civil office. For they may well feel that by doing so too are endorsing the Marriage Act and the evils it will represent. I would leave this decision up to them.

In any case, I am urging my brother ministers to form the same intention to resign from the Act if it is redefined. Like baptism, we can use our own rites, keep our own records, and issue our own certificates. We would do this for the ultimate good of marriage and family, and for the reputation of Jesus’ church and His gospel.

Campbell Markham is a Presbyterian pastor and church planter in Hobart who has sought to reach out to the homosexual community.

APPENDIX 2

Presbyterian Church of Victoria

CHURCH AND NATION COMMITTEE

Marriage Act Options Paper

Presbyteries should consider, discuss and report on the following four options, if SSM was to become lawful:

- The Church could continue as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act and recommend that ministers continue as celebrants as long as they are not required to solemnise same-sex marriages.
 - [The church would protest the possible introduction of changes to the Marriage Act, but once the Act was changed it would continue to operate under the Act, as long as ministers had freedom to refuse same-sex ceremonies.]
- The Church could continue as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act and advise ministers who have a conscientious objection to remaining as celebrants how they may withdraw from registration.
 - [Individual ministers are not required to be registered as celebrants and so are always free to withdraw their registration. However if so-called “same-sex marriage” were introduced, the church could recognise the concerns which might lead to ministers withdrawing and offer advice and support to those who chose to do so.]
- The Church could advise and encourage ministers to withdraw as celebrants, but continue as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act.
 - [This option may seem to send mixed messages. It would allow ministers who wished to continue as Celebrants to do so as ministers of the Presbyterian Church, while stating the view that ministers should withdraw. If all ministers did so, the church might subsequently cancel its own status under the Act.]
- Withdraw as a recognised religious denomination under the Marriage Act and establish a form of ecclesiastical marriage.
 - [This option is the preferred position of the GAA CaN committee and would see the Presbyterian Church of Australia withdraw entirely from the Marriage Act. A form of ecclesiastical marriage would have to be carefully designed. It may be that other Christian churches would wish to share in this, or at least establish mutual recognition of such marriages.]

Church & Nation Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Colloquium Receipts	10,326
Common Fund Interest	43,870
Publication Sales	355
Total Income	54,551

Expenditure:

Conference Expenses	527
Personnel - Researcher	23,181
Office Expenses	1,705
Colloquium Expenses	10,130
Convener's Book Allowance	26
Travel	719
Total Expenditure	36,287

Surplus on General Operations

18,264

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	361,478
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	18,264
Add back depreciation	246
Annual Leave Accrual	352
Balance 30/6/14	380,341

CHURCH PLANTING COMMITTEE (Min. 31)

Church Planting

The life of our church plants continues to flourish and we saw the birth of a new church in the Presbytery of Gippsland. Warragul Church Plant which was planted from Drouin Presbyterian now has a weekly attendance of 70.

A Growing Need

The current forecasts (Victoria in Future 2014¹) by government expect city centres in Victoria to have much larger populations in 2050:

- Greater Melbourne, 7,800,000;
- Geelong, 500,000;
- Bendigo, 200,000;
- Ballarat, 200,000.

The fastest growing Local Government Areas (LGAs) are expected to grow by 2031:

- Wyndham, up 200,000 to 367,500;
- Casey up 171,000 to 432,000;
- Whittlesea up 160,000 to 320,600;
- Melton up 142,000 to 255,000.

This means that without additional churches Melton Presbyterian Church will have a parish bigger than Geelong. Casey, currently served by Cranbourne Presbyterian Church and Cardinia Presbyterian Church, will have a population in excess of the combined populations of Geelong, Bendigo and Ballarat.

Property Development Fund (PDF)

We are currently engaged with seeking to purchase a property in the Doreen area. This has highlighted issues with both the current model of property acquisition, and the deficient funding of the PDF.

The Trusts Corporation in its 2006 report (BB 2006, p350) states that the CPC (the then CPEC) 'will require additional funds from another source if property is to be purchased.' The truth of this statement is only now coming becoming fully apparent. In order to purchase properties the PDF requires a steady stream of income which is large enough to secure new properties on a yearly basis. This means in excess of \$2,000,000 per year needs to be contributed to the fund.

Presently the only source of income for the PDF is interest on the fund together with donations totalling approximately \$15,000 per annum from Bundoora Presbyterian. At this rate the PDF may be able to purchase 1 property today and then another in 50 years time.

As we seek to engage with LGAs the consistent advice is to buy early. Planning overlays are performed many years prior to the sale of land.

We must also be keen to not create an implied trust as occurred with the Officer property. We need the flexibility to adapt as the times present new challenges. If

1 http://www.dpcd.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/230069/VIF-2014-WEB.pdf

there is to be an implied trust it should be to the PDF and not the location of any particular purchase until a new congregation is established in that place.

It continues to be a matter of urgency that more funds be found for the PDF and that we find a way for the PCV to use this fund to buy land in growth areas well before developers lock in their plans. This means the purchase of land not directly associated with a congregation. We need to try and future proof ourselves in order not to be left with homeless congregations in places where land prices have become prohibitive.

A Response to the BIF deliverance from May 2014

“Request the Church Planting Committee to report fully to the October Assembly detailing the current church plant funding model (while continuing to comply with all of the agreements reached with the BIF about their funding model), the role and job description of the Church Planter Evangelist and his concurrent position as minister/church planter at Valley Presbyterian Church, especially considering whether it remains appropriate for the position to be fully funded by the Assembly from committee funds.” **2014 Commission of Assembly, Min 7.4**

1. The Current Funding Model

The basic model we use as our starting point is that we aim to fund a church plant over five years. After submitting a budget to the CPC we determine the level of grant required in the first year. Thereafter, the assumption is that the grant will be reduced by 20% each year. While some plants may become self sufficient before the five years are completed, those who struggle and need more funding in any one particular year will have to request the CPC to alter the expected 20% reduction. Our regulations highlight our commitment not to fund church plants long term if they are struggling and without much prospect of viability and we would seek to work towards an exit strategy with the presbytery concerned.

First year grants are divided into two components; general operating costs and start-up costs. The latter includes any capital items needed and extra advertising costs as they launch the new work. As the start-up grant is now a lump sum grant it is only for the first year. The 20% reduction for the second year is based on the total grants in the first year.

One exception to the annual 20% reduction has been our willingness to help fund a part time second worker, a METRO worker or equivalent. We want to encourage new congregations to develop team ministries and to be a place where others are trained. To this end we usually budget for the equivalent of what a congregation would have to pay for one METRO worker. We believe that team ministers and trainee-ships are vital elements for healthy, growing congregations and help congregations become viable faster.

This assumes a one size fits all approach works. We have a number of plants presently operating. In general we would like to see all church plants self sufficient at the completion of the 5th year. To make this transition simple we have a general principle that in the first year the committee is prepared to carry 100% of the cost, this decreasing at a nominal rate of 20% each year so that year 6 is 0%. This is a

preferred model, but there can be no fixed system, as church plant differs to church plant.

2. The Role and Job Description of the CPE

The Role and Job Description of the CPE are available in the 2013 Code, page 210.

3. Concurrent Position as Minister/Church Planter at Valley

The funding of a church planted by the Church Planter Evangelist is intrinsically different to the basic model because the CPE is employed by the GAV to work where the CPC places him (see job description 2. a). Technically, the CPE costs are not a grant to the plant he works at. Such a plant would receive grants to cover start-up cost and other ministry operational costs.

It is important that the CPE is a practitioner and once embedded in a new plant, wisdom would indicate that he would need to be there for about 10 years, depending on the particular situation. The original job description for the CPE 2006 included the idea that he should be willing to move every 2-3 years. Subsequent research and interviews with experienced church planters led the committee to conclude that this was unwise and unhelpful. This conclusion was presented to the GA in 2009 and the 2-3 year clause was removed. It is very unhelpful for a new congregation to lose their founding pastor so soon and it is also unhealthy for the planter's family. In fact, experienced planters would not take on the role of CPE with the 2-3 year expectation.

Being the pastor of the church is intrinsic to the nature of being a planter and we do not see the current CPE in concurrent roles but simply in one. The committee had originally hoped that we would have had two full time workers at Valley to allow the CPE to place more emphasis on the wider aspects of the role. As this did not eventuate he had to concentrate almost all of his energies on the aspect of establishing VPC. Now that VPC is in the position to fully fund someone to work alongside Richard Wilson it will provide him with more time to recruit and mentor other planters and assist presbyteries and congregations who might be seeking to plant new congregations. We are very thankful for his ability to perform many of his wider duties while being the solo pastor at VPC but are concerned by the workload this creates.

In the future, wherever the CPE plants a new church we would be looking to have a full time co-worker with him from the start or encourage that plant to get to a position of affording a co-worker as soon as possible.

It has been invaluable to the CPC and to Richard Wilson to be the first planter under the banner of the CPC. We are learning many lessons along the way which will make us more effective in the future. As he is only in his 4th year at VPC, the committee plans for him to stay there for some time yet as the congregation grows and hopefully transitions into a congregation with its own property and with the ability and passion to plant other congregations.

4. Is it appropriate for the position (CPE) to be fully funded by the Assembly?

Yes, definitely.

Just the Beginning

In the last four years five new congregations have been planted with the help and guidance of the CPC. This is a cause for thanksgiving. Yet, the harvest is so plentiful

we must consider this to simply be our first ‘baby steps’ towards a new and vigorous era of reaching the exploding numbers of unconverted the Lord has, and is, bringing to our very own doorstep. It must be our priority as a denomination, as indeed we have declared in our Vision Statement.

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

At the May Assembly the Property Development Fund budget was approved with a property in mind, which at the time had been valued at approximately \$800,000. Since then two additional valuations have been conducted both of which place the value of the property well in excess of \$1,000,000. As such the Church Planting Committee would like to increase the budget to allow for the purchase of the property concerned. At present the presbytery negotiators are engaged in securing the property, contingent on a budget variance.

Cameron Garrett
CONVENER

CHURCH PLANTER EVANGELIST REPORT

In the middle of my fourth year on the job as church planter evangelist I am feeling both excited and somewhat exhausted as God has granted us much growth through the new congregations. People are coming to faith in Christ, children are being disciplined, new immigrants are being welcomed and leaders trained and appointed.

I meet with most of our church planters once each month and these have been exciting times of prayer, sharing, struggling and rejoicing in the work of the gospel. We are learning many valuable lessons about church planting together in Victoria. The **church planting expo on the Monday before assembly** will be an opportunity to share some of these lessons and the vision for reaching Victoria and beyond with the gospel. I do hope many will come with their whole presbytery to share, plan and pray with us.

What I am most excited to report is that there is a deep thirst for reformed evangelical preaching across Victoria. I am constantly amazed at the number of people the Lord is bringing to our churches. We are connecting with non-Christian enquirers, new immigrants, people who have disconnected from church for many years, people leaving churches that are preaching a confused message and Christian people who have moved into our suburbs and are looking to find a church that is clear about Christ and based on the Bible.

There are huge opportunities before us as the Lord continues to bring many people to our state with a growth rate of 100,000 people per year. **We are praying that God would enable us to plant three new churches per year.** This number seems at once far too low given the growth in our population and yet at the same time way beyond our reach given our limited resources. I ask you to pray bold and big prayers because we serve the everlasting God, the creator of the ends of the earth who does not grow tired and weary and who is graciously calling many people across our suburbs and towns to himself. Pray that the Lord would raise up many more workers for the harvest and send them into the harvest fields of Victoria.

Pray that the Lord would bless our theological college with many more students. Pray that **through each of us the LORD would raise up at least five new workers**. One to replace ourselves, one to replace those who drop out early, one for the mission field and two to grow the work and plant new churches.

There is no question that God is drawing many, many people to Christ by his Spirit. The question for us is – will the PCV provide the churches that will welcome them, introduce them to the Saviour, disciple and train them so that they will join us in the mission field?

As a denomination we have a great history of supporting foreign missions but there is a rapidly growing mission field right here in our city. I am constantly amazed at how few strong mission minded Christian churches there are across Melbourne. We need to pray and plan like we are a missionary organisation. We need to think hard about how to refocus our resources on this huge and exciting task the Lord has set before us.

We do need to think about property needs. Local Governments are now putting together long term plans for the growth of Melbourne. If we are not part of that planning stage now we will be squeezed out with many churches meeting in schools and public halls for the foreseeable future. This will leave our church plants in a vulnerable position.

I wish to commend the Presbytery of Melbourne West who have done some valuable planning about where new churches need to be planted. I would urge each presbytery to think hard about their own mission field and work with myself and the church planting committee to plan where they need to be planting. The website ***id.com.au*** is an excellent public resource to get started. It uses ABS data to help you better understand each suburb and town and shows how each suburb is expected to grow and what kinds of people live there now. I would be delighted to attend your presbytery to talk about the possibilities.

Finally I want to urge you to consider attending the Multiply 14 conference in Melbourne on 26th-28th November this year. This is being run by the Geneva Push church planting network which has proven to be a valuable partner in helping us reach Victoria with the gospel.

Richard Wilson
CHURCH PLANTER – EVANGELIST, PCV

Church Planting Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	79,206
Scots Church Property Trust	101,934
Rentals Received	26,086
Total Receipts	<u>207,226</u>

Expenditure:

Property Expenses - Tivendale Rd Officer	8,443
Donation National Church Planting Network	15,000
Committee Expenses	1,179
Education and Training	4,544
Evangelism Officer	89,792
Church Plant - Valley PC	540
Church Plant - Darebin	102,066
Church Plant - Pt Cook	82,348
Church Plant - SE Bendigo	97,548
Church Plant - Warragul	50,846
Total Expenditure	<u>452,306</u>

Surplus on General Operations

(245,080)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	849,310
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(245,080)
Add back Depreciation	540
Balance 30/6/14	<u>604,770</u>

Property Development Trust

Statement of Income & Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	167,848
General Missions Programme	17,675
Grant from Capital Fund	87,944
Donations	14,901
	<u>288,368</u>

Expenditure:

Consultancy	4,470
Total Expenditure	<u>4,470</u>

Surplus on Specific Trusts

283,898

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	1,324,029
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	283,898
Balance 30/6/14	<u>1,607,927</u>

CLERKSHIP COMMITTEE (Min. 54)

1. Remit of Clerkship Committee

The list of functions for the Clerkship Committee, including those of the (former) Clerkship Review Committee, are listed as follows:

3. The functions of the Committee shall be to:

- a. Provide counsel, pastoral care and support to the Clerk;
- b. Provide a body from whom the Clerk can seek advice between meetings of the Assembly;
- c. Receive annual reports from the Clerk on the performance of duties as determined by the Assembly and specified in the 'Statement of Duties' as published by the Assembly from time to time;
- d. Recommend to the Assembly, in consultation with the Board of Investment and Finance, the remuneration to be paid to the Clerk;
- e. Receive and determine any requests for leave made by the Clerk;
- f. Appoint an Acting Clerk whenever the Clerk is on leave, ill or otherwise unable to perform the duties of his office;
- g. Perform the role of the Clerkship Review Committee as specified in the Terms of Settlement for the Clerk of Assembly, viz to review
 - i. the roles and specific duties of the Clerk, and
 - ii. the performance of the Clerk during his time in office.

As noted in last year's report to the General Assembly, the Clerkship Committee concluded on the basis of the 2012 Assembly decision (Min #84) that it is required to perform the function set out in item 3g *annually*.

2. Fulfilling the Committee's Remit

The committee has held two meetings since the 2013 Assembly and concluded as follows in respect of the functions of the Clerk as listed above:

Item 3a. Provide counsel, pastoral care and support to the Clerk

There have been a number of occasions during the course of the year where the Clerk referred specific issues to the Moderator in particular for his counsel and support, and has expressed appreciation for such support.

Item 3b. Provide a body from whom the Clerk can seek advice between meetings of the Assembly

The committee and Clerk are mindful this clause exists, which is to be used as and when needed.

Item 3c. Receive annual reports from the Clerk on the performance of duties as determined by the Assembly and specified in the 'Statement of Duties' as published by the Assembly from time to time

The Clerk provided a written report to the December 2013 meeting and a verbal report to the June 2014 meeting.

Some examples of specific work undertaken by the Clerk in the past year have included:

- responding to an ABC Television reporter querying the church's position in relation to CRE and ACCESS ministries in order to support the work of CRE and ACCESS ministries.
- through the Code Committee, undertaking a major revision to the Code to make it clear and unambiguous.
- preparing the Safe Church budget, interviewing for the position of Training and Compliance Officer and then commencing to train the appointee (Mrs Fiona Bligh)
- being case manager in respect of three complaints raised against church leaders in three separate matters
- being the principal person in the Sites Reserve Committee being responsible for co-ordinating and liaising with specialist professionals re the sites reserves
- meeting with all Victorian presbyteries to give an update on the revision of the Code
- making plans for meeting with Presbytery Clerks during Assembly week

Item 3d. Recommend to the Assembly, in consultation with the Board of Investment and Finance, the remuneration to be paid to the Clerk

Last year in our deliverance we omitted a clause in the terms of settlement covering the Clerk's annual leave, study leave and long service leave provisions. A clause has been added to the Committee's deliverance to correct this omission.

Item 3e. Receive and determine any requests for leave made by the Clerk

This has been complied with.

Item 3f. Appoint an Acting Clerk whenever the Clerk is on leave, ill or otherwise unable to perform the duties of his office

The Rev Peter Phillips was appointed Acting Clerk as required to cover the Clerk's absence on annual leave.

Item 3g. Perform the role of the Clerkship Review Committee as specified in the Terms of Settlement for the Clerk of Assembly

i. To review the roles and specific duties of the Clerk

The committee reviewed the roles and specific duties of the clerk at its June 2014 meeting and can report all have been complied with.

ii. the performance of the Clerk during his time in office

The Clerkship Committee notes, as it did 12 months ago, that the Clerk has demonstrated a whole-hearted approach to his listed duties and committed himself unstintingly to the peace, welfare and ministry of the church. The past year has involved for him a major revision to the Code, the setting up of the Safe Church Office and considerable drive to help clarify the appropriate use of Sites Reserves, all duties he has performed with distinction. He has every confidence of this committee and we believe we speak for this Assembly at large. The committee wishes to record its thankfulness to God for the calling and work of the Rev John P Wilson as Clerk of this General Assembly.

3. Succession Planning

The committee has given some consideration to succession planning as requested by the 2013 General Assembly. It is always open to members of the Assembly to

nominate their interest in the position of Clerk and Deputy Clerk. We are happy to report that as matters stand we are in no immediate need of a successor to either the present Clerk or Deputy Clerk.

The committee wishes to draw attention in its deliverance to the sterling and much appreciated work of the Assembly's Deputy Clerk, Rev Peter Phillips, in operating the Presbyterian Church of Victoria email network for timely updates on upcoming events, items for prayer and action, and other matters of interest. It is worth pointing out that members of the General Assembly, if not already on the Network, can request Mr Phillips to have their email address added.

David J Palmer
CONVENER

CODE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE (Min. 38)

1. Proposed Code Revision

Part of Code Committee core business is to “take necessary action to keep the Code in line with the changing policy of the church” (reg 3(b)(i)), and we have made this a focussed item on the committee’s agenda for the past two years.

What this means is: the church has changed its policy in various areas, or else it indicates it needs to change its policy, and our supporting rules and procedures are not clear enough to assist or keep pace.

We are grateful for agreement to a moratorium on any (non-urgent) Code changes in order for an extensive review to take place, and we wish that to continue for another year. The committee has consulted widely with the people, presbyteries and committees that are most directly involved in the areas under revision. We bring to the 2014 General Assembly a 1st edition review proposal for consideration.

It’s probably no surprise to learn that this review process is necessarily multi-faceted and is more evident in certain parts of code than others. This report identifies five aspects of the Proposed Code Revision – these five areas shed light on the whole revision:

a) Nomenclature – the naming and definitions applied to churches and congregations – picking up a previous suggestion (which was not ultimately successful) by the Ministry Development Committee that the General Assembly should alter how the Code refers to the status of congregations.

e.g. proposed rules 2.1 – 2.4

Presently, there is confusion as to why we call some congregations ‘charges’ and yet others ... where the *same gospel work* goes on ... are called ‘appointment parishes’ and yet others ‘home mission stations’. Yet in each place the same gospel is preached, identical pastoral work is offered, the same sacraments are enjoyed and evangelism engaged. We are convinced that – in essence – the **same gospel work** goes on within each congregation, regardless of circumstance. Therefore, in this proposed revision, each congregation is to be called ‘a charge’ in the sense that in each congregation there is a *sphere of pastoral duty to be exercised by a duly appointed and qualified person*. So we are suggesting giving every congregation the status of charge, whether it’s a Pastoral Charge, Appointment Charge, Home Mission Station or Church Plant.

Having made these principal changes, there is then a flow-on effect of adopting this improvement throughout the rest of the 200 pages of the Code.

b) Church Plants and Church Planters – the suggestion came from the Church Planting Committee that the General Assembly include recognition of a church plant in the Code and make it clearer as to the initial steps for forming the first session.

Some saw our Code Book as lagging behind the changing policy of the church in the area of church planting and asked that we should correct that.

We believe that we have addressed this adequately, but that, later, we would be well advised to look again at our Church Planting Committee regs for improvement and clarity.

We also believe the Proposed Code Revision makes it easier to form their initial session.

c) Scattered and misplaced prescriptions – there is a need to bring misplaced prescriptions into their proper place within the rules whereas some now sit, partially hidden, in the regulations.

e.g. The most glaring of this ‘Presbyterian hiddenness’ where only the informed shall know ... were the prescriptions and guidelines for a presbytery interviewing an applicant for candidacy tucked away in the regulations of the TEC. These and a few other prescriptions have been brought into the body of the rules where appropriate.

This also applies to some prescriptions currently hidden within the MMC and MDC regulations.

d) Logic – we believe that the Proposed Revision brings greater logic in the order of procedures where there is a perceived disconnect in the sectioning of the rules.

e.g. This is the case particularly in ch 4 regarding the presbytery’s different roles and this includes bringing the whole of ch 4A into ch 4. The reason for having a separate ch 4A is no longer valid.

e) Language, style and syntax – we are grateful for the input of a lawyer in our church who has put his word-craft skills into play to advise on better language in our rules, with improvements such as replacing the passive voice with the active. Philip Barton has served the church with generosity of time and devoted his skill to the whole revision. Because of the self-evident value of Philip’s work, even though the hour was late in the year when he volunteered his help, and it meant some inconvenience, for the sake of the long term benefits to the church, the committee decided to seize the opportunity afforded by his generous offer, and to wait for Philip to complete his marathon task and to incorporate his re-write as a new basis for the Proposed Revision of the Code. We are convinced of the quality of Philip’s work.

The committee, through its convener, visited and consulted with each presbytery to listen and gather feedback on the general direction of this review. Through out this visitation process, 35 pages of reflection and suggestion were tabled and the committee has addressed each point.

Let’s always keep this work in perspective. Presbyterian polity and church government must never be seen as an end in itself. If it is then it will sideline the gospel and missionary emphasis of biblical revelation and therefore will restrict the church to solely domestic issues and denominational navel-gazing.

So, the bottom line here is: let's create and adopt a church polity that serves the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and glorifies God.

Finally, a word about the process we're engaged in. At the time Philip Barton kindly offered his services the committee had already produced a 1st draft of a proposed Code Revision. Philip's work has obvious advantages and we now wait on his generous offer to complete the task during January 2015.

We believe that we will end up with a better final product if we take another year to work towards finalising this project. The committee intends to consult with presbyteries and committees again during the early part of 2015.

2. Clarification of the meaning of Rule 4.89

Background

The General Assembly (BB 2012, min 28.5) resolved to:

Request the Code Committee to consider the Code 4.89 re 'Union, readjustment or dissolution of congregations' with a view to:

- a) proposing alterations to clarify the wording, including a definition of the term 'readjustment', or its possible deletion;
- b) consider, in consultation with the Trusts Corporation and the ad hoc committee looking at the use of Sites Reserve monies, the issues relating to property when congregations are united, with a view to ensuring that in a union any property becomes available for the benefit of the new united congregation without a congregation having to be dissolved according to Code 4.90;
- c) consider the possible deletion of the last sentence ('At all times the Presbytery encourages and assists mission stations and appointment parishes to rise to the status of a charge'), or inserting it at a more appropriate place in the Code;
- d) consider this matter urgent (in the light of clause 3 above) and report in the usual way with recommendations to the next General Assembly.

Current position

The committee has, after waiting for clarity from the legal opinion on Sites Reserve, has formed an opinion as to the way forward on this question. However, at the time of writing this report, the committee is still in the process of consulting with the Trusts Corporation on this. We may not be ready to report until the 2015 Commission of Assembly.

3. GAA remit and communication

- a) Communication 1, from the Clerk of the GAA, Rev Dr Paul G Logan, is an invitation to this General Assembly to consider a raft of changes to GAA Committee regulations concerning the nomination and election of committee members and conveners.

The Code Committee has reviewed this matter and is of the opinion that this Assembly ought to view these changes favourably.

- b) Communication 2, from the Clerk of the GAA, Rev Dr Paul G Logan, is a Remit under the Barrier Act for this General Assembly to consider the inclusion new clauses 2.04, 2.20 and 2.28(b) to the Code of Discipline.

The Code Committee has reviewed this matter and is of the opinion that this Assembly ought to view these changes favourably. The suggested inclusions relate to allowing a court to handle a matter of discipline by a committee of the court.

4. A new committee's regulations

The General Assembly, in October 2013, minute 107, established an ad hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria. One of the instructions given to this ad hoc committee was to bring back a set of regulations for this General Assembly to approve and enact.

The Code Committee presents these regulations under clause 4 of our proposed deliverance but the justification for them will be found in the report of this 'schools development' committee.

We note that the committee is deliberately setting aside part of the instruction of GAV 2013, min 107.2, but, given that the name we gave to the committee was the longest in history, we think that they can be forgiven for their disobedience. So we favour the proposed change of name.

5. Selection Committee

In accordance with the regulations this committee proposes a suggestion regarding the Selection Committee.

John P Wilson
CONVENER

COMMISSION FOR CHURCH INSTITUTIONS (Min. 36)

The Commission made the following appointments for the year 2014/2015, with remaining vacancies to be filled at a meeting set for the week following the General Assembly:

1. Presbyterian Ladies' College Council

Group A appoint:	Group B appoint:	Group C approve & appoint:
Mr Brian Bayston	Ms Mui-Chun Chew	
Rev Andrew Bray	Mrs Carolyn Elvins	
Mrs Catherine O'Leary	Mrs Christine Hopper	
	Dr Andrew McDonald	
Mr Russell Walley	Mrs Jan Markham	

2. Scotch College Council

Group A appoint:	Group B appoint:	Group C approve & appoint:
Rev Ivan Barker	Mr Jonathan Buckley	Mrs Sarah Bernard
Mr Brian Bayston	Hon Dr David Kemp	Prof Andrew Holmes
Mr John Ireson	Mr John Simpson	Mrs Susan Hughes
Mr Duncan McGregor	Mr Peter Findlay	Mr Richard Loveridge
Rev John Wilson	Mr Robert Phillpot	Mrs Fiona Pearce
		Mr Michael Sim
		Mr Hamish Tadgell

3. St Andrews Christian College Board

a) Nominator, the Presbytery of the bounds:

Mrs Anne Elliott, *term concludes 2015*
Rev Brian Harvey, *term concludes 2015*
Rev Douglas Robertson, *term concludes 2016*
Mr James Bligh, *term concludes 2017*

b) Nominator, retiring members of the Board:

Mr Peter Lewis, *term concludes 2015*
Mr Jerry Tharapos, *term concludes 2016*
, term concludes 2017
, term concludes 2017

c) Nominator, the Company in General Meeting (Parent Group):

Mr Alan MacGavin, *term concludes 2015*
Mr Sab Ambrosino, *term concludes 2016*
Mr John O'Donnell, *term concludes 2016*
Mrs Sharon Rowland, *term concludes 2017*

4. Belgrave Heights Christian School Association (Board)

a) General Assembly – Presbyterian nominees (6):

Mr Ian Birchall
Mr Ian Byles
Mr Iain Chaney
Rev Warwick Davidson
Mr Dirk Jackson
Rev Andrew Slater

c) BHCS Association (Parents Association) nominees (4):

Mrs Yolanda Cox
Mr Stephen Dunn
Mrs Naomi Eagar
Mrs Melissa Pors

John P Wilson
CLERK OF ASSEMBLY

CONCILIATION COMMITTEE (Min. 116)

The members of the Conciliation Committee met with Rev Bob Thomas and Rev Phillip Chang on 30 September. Additionally, time was set to meet with two respondents of the Melbourne East Presbytery.

At the time of this writing we believe that the engagement was partially successful.

Robert Carner
CONVENER

DEFENCE FORCE CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min. 76)

The last twelve months have been a very busy time for Defence Force chaplains. Chaplains have worked in an environment which is undergoing significant change, is high tempo and continues to necessitate significant travel and time away from home. The changes in the ADF are structural, cultural and operational.

For your ADF chaplains there remains ongoing opportunity for gospel ministry both publically and at an individual level. They continue to run or facilitate Bible studies, discipleship programs, prayer meetings and provide lessons and formal instruction sessions. As always, their pastoral care and pastoral counselling is constantly sought after. Overwhelmingly, the work and ministry of chaplains is highly valued at all levels of command. This year CHAP Andrew Robinson, apart from his responsibilities at the Defence Force School of Signals, has also spent time in Canberra mentoring New To Service chaplains at the Defence Force Chaplain's College. CHAP Martin de Pyle spent time at the end of last year in Timor Leste.

Committee membership has undergone change. This year we were able to welcome Rev Philip Mercer and Mr John Cawood on to the committee. RACS member, Rev Allan Harman, has continued to supply valued leadership and pastoral support to Defence Force Chaplains throughout Australia.

In early 2015 Joshua Bouzanquet who is an in-service candidate for Army Chaplaincy will move to Victoria. Joshua is completing his theological studies at QTC and will undertake his two year pastoral placement at Eltham Presbyterian Church. On the completion of this placement he will commence full time as a Defence Force Chaplain.

Full time ADF Chaplains posted to Victoria have appreciated the numerous offers from a number of congregations to come and speak about the work of military chaplaincy. If other congregations would like to know more then please contact the convener.

There are many unique ministry opportunities afforded to Chaplains working in the Defence environment. There are still vacancies for ordained ministers of our church to serve as Chaplains in our Defence Force in either a part or full time capacity. If anyone would like to know more about this unique ministry please speak to any of the chaplains listed below.

Chaplains currently posted in Victoria are:

Navy

Chaplain Miles Fagan	RANR	HMAS Creswell
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Army

Chaplain Martin de Pyle	ARA	DCSTC
Chaplain Andrew Robinson	ARA	DFSS
Chaplain Trevor Cox	ARES	4CER

RAAF

Chaplain Peter Phillips	RAAFSR	21 SQN RAAF Williams
Chaplain Peter Owen	RAAFSR	21 SQN RAAF Williams

Martin de Pyle
CONVENER

EXIT STUDENTS COMMITTEE (Min. 91)

At the time of last year's Assembly the committee had not made the appointments for 2014. The committee finally made the following appointments late in October 2013:

John Huynh (with Yvonne) to St Stephen's Surrey Hills, in the Presbytery of Melbourne East.

Matthew Tegart (with Rachel) to St Andrew's Gisborne, in the Presbytery of Melbourne West.

On 22nd June 2014, John was ordained and appointed as assistant minister at Surrey Hills. On 23rd August 2014, Matthew Tegart was ordained and appointed as minister at Gisborne.

In early May 2014, the committee appointed Christopher Dean (with Julie) to the Warragul church plant in the Presbytery of Gippsland.

This year, the committee rearranged its timetable of meetings with the exiting students in an effort to ensure that the appointments for 2014 were made by the end of August, providing more time for the students and parishes to prepare for their new ministries. As a result, at its meeting on 15th August 2014, the committee made the following appointments to commence at the beginning of 2015:

Luke Brownley (with Katherine) to Hume, in the Presbytery of Melbourne North.

Russell Grinter (with Aimee) to South East Bendigo church plant, in the Presbytery of North Western Victoria.

Stephen Jones (with Martina) to Melton, in the Presbytery of Melbourne West.

Christian Tirtha (with Milka) to the Indonesian language congregation of Scots' Church Melbourne in the Presbytery of Melbourne West.

There is one other student exiting the College this year; namely Chris Duke. Given Chris's rather unique current circumstances, it was resolved to release him from any obligation to the committee, as committee members were firmly of the view that it was not in his best interests to be under any pressure to take up an appointment at this time.

The committee seeks prayerfully, having access to all relevant information from applying parishes and students, to find placements that will best achieve long-term and fruitful ministries to the glory of God and the blessing of the church of Jesus Christ.

We express thanks to Ben Palmer for most efficient secretarial help given to the committee throughout the year.

Grant Lawry
CONVENER

GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM COMMITTEE (Min. 52)

1. General Mission Program Receipts – 2013/14

The total of the General Mission Program for 2013/14, as fixed by the 2013 Commission of the General Assembly, was \$207,153. As at 30th June 2014, the subscriptions against the allocations for 2013/14 have amounted to \$197,270 or approximately 95% of the total General Mission Program allocated to presbyteries, compared to 92% for the prior year. Of the allocated sums \$13,260 was not received. The committee commends the great majority of congregations which have responded so well to this program of the church in Victoria. The committee strongly commends those presbyteries and parishes which have subscribed their allocations in full, and especially commends those congregations which have subscribed in excess of its allocation, and encourages this practice.

As instructed by the General Assembly, the attached schedule shows for each parish, the amount allocated by presbytery, the amount subscribed against the allocation, any payments above allocation, and any balance remaining as at 30 June 2014.

2. Promotion of General Mission Program

The General Mission Program is an important program for our church and is a way in which all members of the denomination can be involved in the wider work of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Of the 2014-15 GMP allocation of \$162,844, 38% of the funds to be raised are to provide funding to meet the tuition costs of candidates at the Theological College, 25% is provided to Australian Presbyterian World Mission (Victoria), 10% is designated to meet part of the cost of the Training Officer; 16% goes to ACCESS Ministries; with the balance of the funds raised through the GMP split between the Australian Christian Lobby, the Council for Chaplains in Tertiary Institutions, Presbyterian Inland Mission and Victorian Council of Churches for Chaplaincy.

The committee believes it is imperative that this very important mission program of our church is brought to the notice of sessions and boards of management and members of congregations so that an enhanced understanding of its purpose and importance is more widely held. The committee trusts that ministers and sessions will promote the program in their congregations so that even stronger support for the GMP may be achieved.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2013/2014
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2013/14	Received for 2013/14	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2013/14	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2013/14 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF BALLARAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,156.00						
Ararat	572.00	572.00	0.00		572.00	0.00	100.0%
Ballarat North/Mt Prospect/Smeaton	1,442.00	1,442.00	0.00		1,442.00	0.00	100.0%
Ballarat South	1,579.00	1,579.00	0.00		1,579.00	0.00	100.0%
Ballarat West/Lexton	1,694.00	1,694.00	0.00		1,694.00	0.00	100.0%
Carisbrook/Castlemaine	1,030.00	1,030.00	0.00		1,030.00	0.00	100.0%
Daylesford	252.00	252.00	0.00		252.00	0.00	100.0%
Horsham/Marnoo	733.00	733.00	0.00		733.00	0.00	100.0%
Kaniva/Nhill	1,030.00	1,030.00	0.00		1,030.00	0.00	100.0%
Skipton/Lismore	824.00	824.00	0.00		824.00	0.00	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,156.00	9,156.00	0.00	0.00	9,156.00	0.00	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF BENALLA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	12,090.00						
Benalla	3,021.00	3,021.00	0.00		3,021.00	0.00	100.0%
Broadford	551.00	551.00	0.00		551.00	0.00	100.0%
Numurkah	1,406.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	1,406.00	0.0%
Seymour/Nagambie/Yea	975.00	975.00	0.00		975.00	0.00	100.0%
Shepparton/Stanhope/Kyabram	1,406.00	1,406.00	0.00		1,406.00	0.00	100.0%
Tatura	2,318.00	2,318.00	0.00		2,318.00	0.00	100.0%
Wangaratta/Yarrawonga/Myrtleford	1,634.00	1,634.00	0.00		1,634.00	0.00	100.0%
Wodonga	779.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	779.00	0.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	12,090.00	9,905.00	0.00	0.00	9,905.00	2,185.00	81.9%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						18.1%	
PRESBYTERY OF FLINDERS							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	29,821.00						
Aspendale	1,425.00	1,425.00	0.00		1,425.00	0.00	100.0%
Brighton	1,320.00	1,320.00	0.00		1,320.00	0.00	100.0%
Cheltenham	3,083.00	3,083.00	0.00		3,083.00	0.00	100.0%
Clarinda	905.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	905.00	0.0%
Clayton	5,718.00	5,718.00	0.00		5,718.00	0.00	100.0%
Cranbourne	2,235.00	2,235.00	0.00		2,235.00	0.00	100.0%
Cardinia/Koo-Wee-Rup	302.00	302.00	0.00		302.00	0.00	100.0%
Dandenong	1,148.00	1,148.00	0.00		1,148.00	0.00	100.0%
Dromana/Mornington	1,850.00	1,850.00	0.00		1,850.00	0.00	100.0%
Frankston	2,950.00	2,950.00	0.00		2,950.00	0.00	100.0%
Mordialloc	1,662.00	1,662.00	0.00		1,662.00	0.00	100.0%
Somerville	1,509.00	1,509.00	0.00		1,509.00	0.00	100.0%
Sorrento/Rye	4,277.00	4,277.00	0.00		4,277.00	0.00	100.0%
SE Samoan	1,437.00	1,437.00	0.00		1,437.00	0.00	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	29,821.00	28,916.00	0.00	0.00	28,916.00	905.00	97.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						3.0%	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2013/2014
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2013/14	Received for 2013/14	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2013/14	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2013/14 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF GEELONG							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	8,229.00						
Colac	1,358.00	1,358.00	0.00		1,358.00	0.00	100.0%
Geelong - St George's	757.00	757.00	0.00		757.00	0.00	100.0%
Geelong North	1,415.00	1,415.00	0.00		1,415.00	0.00	100.0%
Geelong West	1,761.00	1,761.00	0.00		1,761.00	0.00	100.0%
Moorabool	1,588.00	1,588.00	0.00		1,588.00	0.00	100.0%
The Leigh	1,350.00	1,350.00	0.00		1,350.00	0.00	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	8,229.00	8,229.00	0.00	0.00	8,229.00	0.00	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF GIPPSLAND							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	9,045.00						
Bairnsdale	1,194.00	1,194.00	0.00		1,194.00	0.00	100.0%
Drouin	4,523.00	4,523.00	0.00		4,523.00	0.00	100.0%
Leongatha	371.00	371.00	0.00		371.00	0.00	100.0%
Moe/Yarram	1,555.00	1,555.00	0.00		1,555.00	0.00	100.0%
Morwell	1,275.00	1,275.00	0.00		1,275.00	0.00	100.0%
Sale	127.00	127.00	0.00		127.00	0.00	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	9,045.00	9,045.00	0.00	0.00	9,045.00	0.00	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF KILNOORAT							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	14,539.00						
Camperdown/Terang	1,040.00	1,040.00	0.00		1,040.00	0.00	100.0%
Hamilton	2,545.00	2,545.00	0.00		2,545.00	0.00	100.0%
Heywood/Portland	1,300.00	1,300.00	0.00		1,300.00	0.00	100.0%
Koroit/Port Fairy	1,510.00	1,510.00	0.00		1,510.00	0.00	100.0%
Noorat	1,300.00	1,300.00	0.00		1,300.00	0.00	100.0%
Warrnambool	6,844.00	6,844.00	0.00		6,844.00	0.00	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	14,539.00	14,539.00	0.00	0.00	14,539.00	0.00	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF MAROONDAH							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	18,385.00						
Belgrave Heights	991.00	991.00	0.00		991.00	0.00	100.0%
Blackburn	923.00	1,000.00	77.00		1,000.00	0.00	108.3%
Croydon Hills	2,311.00	2,311.00	0.00		2,311.00	0.00	100.0%
Donvale	8,746.00	8,746.00	0.00		8,746.00	0.00	100.0%
Heathmont	1,221.00	1,221.00	0.00		1,221.00	0.00	100.0%
Kirkbrae	100.00	100.00	0.00		100.00	0.00	100.0%
Mt Evelyn	1,451.00	1,451.00	0.00		1,451.00	0.00	100.0%
Warburton	991.00	991.00	0.00		991.00	0.00	100.0%
Woori Yallock	1,651.00	1,650.00	0.00		1,650.00	1.00	99.9%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	18,385.00	18,461.00	77.00	0.00	18,461.00	1.00	100.4%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2013/2014
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2013/14	Received for 2013/14	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2013/14	BALANCE of TOTAL Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2013/14 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE EAST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	39,895.00						
Arabic	1,237.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	1,237.00	0.0%
Ashburton	1,704.00	1,704.00	0.00		1,704.00	0.00	100.0%
Auburn	1,808.00	1,808.00	0.00		1,808.00	0.00	100.0%
Burwood Community	2,561.00	2,561.00	0.00		2,561.00	0.00	100.0%
Camberwell	7,899.00	3,106.30	0.00		3,106.30	4,792.70	39.3%
Canterbury	4,030.00	4,030.00	0.00		4,030.00	0.00	100.0%
Caulfield/Elwood	3,510.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	3,510.00	0.0%
Gardenvale East	398.00	398.00	0.00		398.00	0.00	100.0%
Hawthorn	2,040.00	2,040.00	0.00		2,040.00	0.00	100.0%
Korean, Balwyn	2,358.00	2,358.00	0.00		2,358.00	0.00	100.0%
Malvern	3,450.00	3,450.00	0.00		3,450.00	0.00	100.0%
South Yarra	4,109.00	4,109.00	0.00		4,109.00	0.00	100.0%
St Kilda / Balaclava	1,750.00	5,000.00	3,250.00		5,000.00	0.00	285.7%
Surrey Hills	3,041.00	3,041.00	0.00		3,041.00	0.00	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	39,895.00	33,605.30	3,250.00	0.00	33,605.30	9,539.70	84.2%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						23.9%	

PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE NORTH

Total Allocated to Presbytery	21,877.00						
Bundoora	3,570.00	3,570.00	0.00		3,570.00	0.00	100.0%
Eltham	3,197.00	3,197.00	0.00		3,197.00	0.00	100.0%
Epping	2,118.00	2,118.00	0.00		2,118.00	0.00	100.0%
Heidelberg	1,763.00	1,763.00	0.00		1,763.00	0.00	100.0%
Hume	629.00	0.00	0.00		0.00	629.00	0.0%
Kangaroo Ground	2,305.00	2,305.00	0.00		2,305.00	0.00	100.0%
Reservoir	2,389.00	2,389.00	0.00		2,389.00	0.00	100.0%
Samoan, Fawkner	2,586.00	2,586.00	0.00		2,586.00	0.00	100.0%
Valley	921.00	921.00	0.00		921.00	0.00	100.0%
Westminster Community Tem'towe	474.00	474.00	0.00		474.00	0.00	100.0%
Whittlesea/Mernda	1,925.00	1,925.00	0.00		1,925.00	0.00	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	21,877.00	21,248.00	0.00	0.00	21,248.00	629.00	97.1%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						2.9%	

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VICTORIA
GENERAL MISSION PROGRAM 2013/2014
PAYMENTS BY PARISHES/PRESBYTERIES**

	Allocation 2013/14	Received for 2013/14	Received in Excess of Allocation	Received for Prior Year	TOTAL Received in 2013/14	BALANCE of Allocation NOT Received	TOTAL Received for 2013/14 as % of Allocation
PRESBYTERY OF MELBOURNE WEST							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	37,211.00						
Brimbank	973.00	973.00	0.00		973.00	0.00	100.0%
Clifton Hill	1,035.00	1,035.00	0.00		1,035.00	0.00	100.0%
Essendon	2,073.00	2,073.00	0.00		2,073.00	0.00	100.0%
Gisborne	1,379.00	1,379.00	0.00		1,379.00	0.00	100.0%
Melbourne, Scots/Flemington	20,831.00	20,831.00	0.00		20,831.00	0.00	100.0%
Melton	2,213.00	2,213.00	0.00		2,213.00	0.00	100.0%
Point Cook	204.00	204.00	0.00		204.00	0.00	100.0%
Sunshine	2,725.00	2,725.00	0.00		2,725.00	0.00	100.0%
West Footscray	1,486.00	1,486.00	0.00		1,486.00	0.00	100.0%
Williamstown	2,400.00	2,400.00	0.00		2,400.00	0.00	100.0%
Wyndham	1,892.00	1,892.00	0.00		1,892.00	0.00	100.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	37,211.00	37,211.00	0.00	0.00	37,211.00	0.00	100.0%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	
PRESBYTERY OF NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA							
Total Allocated to Presbytery	6,905.00						
Bendigo	2,177.00	2,177.00	0.00		2,177.00	0.00	100.0%
Eaglehawk	1,037.00	1,037.00	0.00		1,037.00	0.00	100.0%
Kerang/Pyramid Hill	1,342.00	1,342.00	0.00		1,342.00	0.00	100.0%
Rochester	1,465.00	1,465.00	0.00		1,465.00	0.00	100.0%
Sunraysia	399.00	399.00	0.00		399.00	0.00	100.0%
Swan Hill	535.00	535.00	0.00		535.00	0.00	100.0%
Over Allocation	-50.00		50.00		0.00	0.00	0.0%
PRESBYTERY TOTAL	6,905.00	6,955.00	50.00	0.00	6,955.00	0.00	100.7%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						0.0%	
SUMMARY							
Total Allocated to Presbyteries	207,153.00						
BALLARAT	9,156.00	9,156.00	0.00	0.00	9,156.00	0.00	100.0%
BENALLA	12,090.00	9,905.00	0.00	0.00	9,905.00	2,185.00	81.9%
FLINDERS	29,821.00	28,916.00	0.00	0.00	28,916.00	905.00	97.0%
GEELONG	8,229.00	8,229.00	0.00	0.00	8,229.00	0.00	100.0%
GIPPSLAND	9,045.00	9,045.00	0.00	0.00	9,045.00	0.00	100.0%
KILNOORAT	14,539.00	14,539.00	0.00	0.00	14,539.00	0.00	100.0%
MAROONDAH	18,385.00	18,461.00	77.00	0.00	18,461.00	1.00	100.4%
MELBOURNE EAST	39,895.00	33,605.30	3,250.00	0.00	33,605.30	9,539.70	84.2%
MELBOURNE NORTH	21,877.00	21,248.00	0.00	0.00	21,248.00	629.00	97.1%
MELBOURNE WEST	37,211.00	37,211.00	0.00	0.00	37,211.00	0.00	100.0%
NORTH WESTERN VICTORIA	6,905.00	6,955.00	50.00	0.00	6,955.00	0.00	100.7%
unallocated	0.00						
TOTALS	207,153.00	197,270.30	3,377.00	0.00	197,270.30	13,259.70	95.2%
Percentages subscribed/unpaid						6.4%	

Norm Sharp
CONVENER

HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CHAPLAINCY COMMITTEE (Min. 109)

Introduction

I thank my God always when I remember you in my prayers, because I hear of your love and of the faith that you have toward the Lord Jesus and all the saints, and I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective for the full knowledge of every good thing that is in us for the sake of Christ. For I have derived much joy and comfort from your love, my brother, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. (Philemon 4-7 ESV)

The Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee (HCCC) is charged by this Assembly to engage with hospital and community groups in order to place and support the chaplains and pastoral carers of the PCV in the field; and to care for and support ministers and their families.

We do so because Scripture demands that we do. Philemon was known to Paul as one who demonstrated the love of Christ and the truth of salvation to those he knew. Our chaplains and ministry families are similar people – sharing their faith and love for the sake of Christ. So as a committee we remember them in our prayers so the hearts of many saints are refreshed through their efforts.

HCCC meets bi-monthly and the committee this year has comprised of the following people: Miss Barbara Brown, Mrs Anne Elliott, Mrs Toni Orchard, Mrs Alison Robertson, Rev Clinton LePage, Rev Philip Court, Rev Grant Vayne, Rev Philip Chang and Rev Miles Fagan.

HCCC thanks the many people who keep the chaplains before them in prayer and we remind the Assembly of those PCV funded chaplains and pastoral care workers during 2012/2013 below:

- Mrs Christine LePage – Paediatric pastoral care at Northern Health funded by Harold Hughes Trust (0.4 EFT) from April 2013
- Mr Ian Waller – Paediatric pastoral care at Western Health funded by Harold Hughes Trust (0.6 EFT) from April 2013
- Rev Wally Gear – Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes funded jointly with the Social Services Committee (1.0 EFT)
- Mrs Janine Motyer- Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes funded in full by the Social Services Committee (0.8EFT)
- Miss Elspeth Slater – Pastoral Support worker to PCV Ministry Wives (0.6 EFT)
- Rev Tony and Mrs Anne Salisbury – Ministry to the Deaf Community funded jointly with the Ministry Development Committee and the Deaf Presbyterian Church (1.0 EFT)
- Mrs Suzanne Oakes – Pastoral Care Intern at the Royal Children's Hospital including units of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) at Austin Hospital
- Mrs Kathy James – HCCC Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Coordinator (0.4 EFT)

The HCCC also provides monthly payments to cover travel expenses for several PCV voluntary visiting chaplains working in a range of settings, including local health and aged care facilities, prisons and to the Victorian Police force. We urge the Assembly to continue to pray for these varied important works.

The Harold Hughes Trust / Paediatric Chaplaincy

HCCC has seen Mrs Christine LePage and Mr Ian Waller develop and flourish in their ministries at the Northern and Western hospitals respectively. In October 2013 they were commissioned at a service held at Donvale Presbyterian Church. Their work in the paediatric wards of their respective hospitals has been valued by all.

At the beginning of 2014, HCCC: through the support of the Hughes Trust and in collaboration with both the Austin and Royal Children's Hospitals, embarked on our next phase of training for future Pastoral Care workers of this denomination. Mrs Suzanne Oakes now undertakes one day of CPE studies at the Austin and two days a week of practical field work in paediatric chaplaincy at the Royal Children's Hospital.

The Burnett Trust / Aged Care Chaplaincy and Ministry Support

The Burnett Trust funds both Rev Wally Gear (Kirkbrae Chaplain) and Miss Elspeth Slater (Pastoral Support Worker - Minister's Wives Pastoral Care Worker). While their spheres of ministry are different, their ongoing pastoral care ministry is both vital and encouraging.

Wally's ministry is received very well at Kirkbrae. In 2014, Kirkbrae established a Pastoral Care department responsible to the CEO, Mr Mark Sketcher, in conjunction with his employing committees, thus raising the profile of Pastoral Care. Both Wally Gear and Janine Motyer together with the various denominational visitors form that department within the facility. This is a wonderful development and lays the foundation for further development of pastoral care services in aged care within the PCV.

Last year in the Assembly, Miss Elspeth Slater attended. During that time many ministers spoke publically about her wonderful ministry to their wives. It was and continues to be a testament to the true value of her ministry.

In 2013 Elspeth ran a day conference for Ministry Wives focussing on issues that arise for ministry families. This was well received and another one was recently held in August 2014. Elspeth also seeks to meet regularly with the wives of our ministry candidates and those who are in their first years of parish ministry within the PCV. She also maintains encouraging contact with many retired ministry wives.

HCCC Good Friday Appeal 2014

Awareness of chaplaincy ministry continues to grow as each church begins to understand the impact that a chaplain may have in various settings. A read of this report is evidential of the impact that they have. The 2014 HCCC Good Friday appeal, through the generosity of the PCV congregations, raised a staggering \$18,847.32 for which we could not be more thankful. We plan to use this wisely in support of the HCCC budget for a range of chaplaincy and ministry workers.

Please remember that congregations who would like to have a chaplain come and speak at a meeting / service are most welcome to contact one of our chaplains directly or consult with Mrs Kathy James (chaplaincy@pcvic.org.au).

Spiritual Health Victoria: SHV (formerly the Healthcare Chaplaincy Council of Victoria: HCCVI)

The PCV retains one seat on the Council of the newly renamed Spiritual Health Victoria (SHV) which is currently held by Mrs Kathy James, who is also the current Chairman of the SHV Board.

Please pray for this Council which exists to administer State Government funding to Victorian faith communities in support of the provision of dedicated spiritual care services in healthcare settings in Victoria. The multi-faith council is a highly challenging arena with many complex issues around understandings and boundaries in the provision of spiritual care by member groups to patients in Victorian Healthcare settings. The HCCC is thankful for this opportunity to be working at the coal-face of health chaplaincy development in Victoria and to maintain a strong Christian presence and voice at the decision making level. We give thanks to God and ask for his ongoing grace and help for Kathy and other Christian representatives on the SHV.

Tertiary Chaplaincy: Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES)

The HCCC together with the MDC help fund Presbyterian AFES workers each year as they work across several Victorian campuses. The names of the AFES workers, along with their field of mission and field of service in the PCV are as follows:

- Latrobe - Bundoora – Peter Leslie (at Valley PC) and Helen Bell - International students (at Bundoora PC)
- Latrobe – Bendigo – Steve Blythe
- Deakin - Geelong – David Martin (at Geelong West PC)
- Deakin – Burwood – Pete Sorrenson (at Surrey Hills PC)
- RMIT Melb – Steve Denness (Donvale PC)
- RMIT Bundoora – Alan Green (Bundoora PC)
- Monash – Ken Lim (Donvale PC)

The HCCC encourages the Assembly to continue to grasp the vision of AFES and its vital gospel work amongst the universities of Victoria.

Deaf Community Chaplaincy

Rev Tony and Anne Salisbury as part of the Deaf Community Church based at Surrey Hills PC have been building on the ministry growth that they experienced last year. Tony's regular engagement with deaf students as a school chaplain employed by Access Ministries across several metropolitan public schools is testament to the ongoing worth and scope of his ministry.

Tony and Anne demonstrate the love of Christ that brings comfort and reality into the deaf world. Please continue to uphold the Salisbury's in your prayers. The work is intense and demanding on them both.

Emergency Ministries

Several PCV emergency trained chaplains were called to assist in fires during the early part of 2014. We commend them for their efforts and seek Assembly's prayer support for their ministry.

Several ministers have become further trained in relief centres and are able to deliver short term debriefing. Many emergency responders have utilised a method called Psychological First Aid (PFA). Its intention is to move the person from a heightened

state of awareness to a more normal level where they can function and make decisions.

Sports Chaplaincy

We praise God for the many opportunities that exist in sports chaplaincy in Victoria. PCV through Sports Chaplaincy Australia (SCA) currently have chaplains in surf clubs, umpire leagues, sporting shooters, and country football clubs.

The opportunities to engage with the local community through the hub of sport are endless. The question we need to ask ourselves is where and when can I make myself available or encourage others in the congregation to do so.

SCA, through its Centre Bounce Team Training, run many training opportunities. There are two levels of training; Level One is aimed at introducing people to sports chaplaincy, while Level Two provides specific training for chaplains involved in pastorally caring for their sports community.

For more information, www.sportschaplaincy.com.au

Ministers Family Camp

Minister's Family Camp in 2013 proved to be a wonderful time of fellowship and ministry to each other and to the ministry families. We were blessed to have Rev Bruce Winter as our main speaker. Other presentations and workshops included an Outreach Seminar with Mrs Jo Hood from Mainly Music Christian Playgroups. The camp for September 2014 will feature the current GAA Moderator-General, Rt Rev David Cook.

The Committee is indebted to the mighty efforts of Mrs Anne Elliott who has coordinated the camp over the last several years.

Pastor's Renewal Retreats

The following is sourced from the PCNSW flyer.

The first Renewal Retreat Group was led by Les Scarborough from John Mark Ministries Inc. in 1995. Various members of the Presbyterian Church of New South Wales recognized that a strategy was needed to enable ministers to develop healthy, sustainable ministries and to encourage healthy relationships between ministers across the denomination.

What is a Renewal Retreat Group?

The model followed by a Renewal Retreat Group includes three phases, each phase corresponding to a year of the three-year cycle. In between retreats, catch-ups are held either in person or through an electronic medium.

Phase 1 is an opportunity for group members to connect, develop a group covenant, tell life stories, reflect and minister to each other, affirm each group member, and enjoy time in God's word for personal meditation and spiritual reflection.

Phase 2 is a time of growing as group members reconnect and share catch-up stories. In addition there is time for workshops covering leadership principles, ministry models, theological reflections, personal issues, time alone with God and affirmation.

Phase 3 incorporates elements of phase two; however the purpose of this phase is to prepare the group for division and multiplication and includes the affirmation of additional facilitators.

While the process of reflecting on our life story may prompt us to recognize areas in our personal life, family life or ministry that God is seeking to transform, the group is not designed to provide any of the following:

- *Direct support on an ongoing, regular basis. Members can choose to set up accountability processes with other members of the group, and seek prayer support. Any further support should be sought through alternative channels.*
- *In-depth bible study. At different points within the retreat cycle group members may bring discussion papers on biblical, theological or ministry topics that challenge and broaden our horizons, however, the retreat group is not a bible conference or an opportunity to hone preaching skills.*
- *A holiday. Members will find the process of personal reflection and listening to others stories requires effort and concentration.*

There are currently thirty-four Victorian ministers in five retreat groups that are in various cycles of operation.

Pastors Personal Support Program

We are all aware that booking a car in for a service once it has blown a head gasket is too late. Booking a car in for preventative maintenance, where water hoses are checked and replaced, if deemed to be worn out, is far preferable. Similarly, our pastors are not motor cars, but booking them in for an assessment once they have burst several relationships is too late. Surely, booking them in for preventative maintenance where they can honestly express themselves face to face and discuss areas where they require personal support from a qualified Christian counsellor is also preferable.

From January to September 2014, the HCCC has trialed a Pastors Personal Support Program. Six Victorian PCV pastors have made use of this trial, attending monthly sessions with a qualified male Christian Counsellor in their area, with great results.

One pastor wrote the following and he has given approval for it to be published:

There is something refreshing about having someone, who understands ministry, but who is from outside our denominational context, to [talk] with. He can offer reflections which carry no weight (he is not on my session, presbytery or assembly), but at the same time, gives you something to think through from an experienced pastor/counsellor/mentor's view. I think the effectiveness of such a personal support program lies in its regularity, and opportunity for personal reflection. It strikes me as being incredibly healthy and refreshing.

The initiative came from the floor of Assembly two years ago when several ministers and elders spoke passionately about some ministers who have painfully burnt out. HCCC considered this seriously with much prayer and discussion. The light-bulb moment came when we noted that all PCV chaplains are required as a condition of their workplaces, to have a mandatory self-care check up with a Christian Counsellor at least every two months or so to promote longevity in their important roles. If our chaplains themselves receive ongoing Pastoral Care Support as they deal with complex personal and spiritual problems, then how much more should the ministers of this denomination who engage with these issues just as regularly and sometimes in more confronting ways, be supported through formal self-care of a similar nature.

One of our chaplains made the following comment:

If you had told me several years ago that I would be visiting a counsellor about five times a year, I probably would have laughed. But now that is precisely what I do, for professional support in my very rewarding yet very draining ministry. Where absolute confidentiality is the key to being trusted it is an enormous relief to be able to sit down with a Christian

professional person outside the bounds of our denomination and to speak in complete confidence about the situations I am immersed in – the ways I have responded, the progress or otherwise being made, and what I might have done better. I know I am not betraying trust, names and places don't have to come into the conversation, but I come away feeling affirmed and refreshed because this Christian professional takes not only my particular ministry, but other things that make up my life into account, and as an outsider is able to see things that I can't see, because I am too close to them. I am very grateful for this opportunity and know I grow as a person through this.

As a result of strong positive feedback from the HCCC's Pilot program and our own chaplain's experiences, we now humbly request that the Assembly adopt and approve an addition to Regulation 7 (Minimum Terms of Settlement) of the Maintenance and Ministry Committee (MMC). HCCC and MMC have discussed this addition and MMC see merit in the proposal.

The anticipated cost would not exceed \$500 per year (funding up to 6 visits) and in many cases, would come in at less than that. The range of consultation fees is \$70 to \$90. We realise that some churches are struggling financially but we also have the duty of care to our ministers and their wives.

It appears to us that a healthy minister who regularly receives a preventative check-up for personal support is far better than a crippled ministry where many lives and relationships can be further damaged.

Chaplaincy Co-ordinator

During the past year, Mrs Kathy James has had opportunity for further Professional Development attending the national conference of Spiritual Care Australia on behalf of the PCV. This was most worthwhile. Kathy continues to serve the PCVHCCC with a high degree of professionalism and strategic thinking. At her recent Performance Review, the HCCC recognised that the administrative burden falls largely into Kathy's role. We are exploring ways for this to be minimised in future, as strategic development work in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care for the PCV continues.

Kathy continues to support the various chaplains and meet one on one with them as necessary. These meetings are crucial for times of support, prayer and raising any particular concerns. If there is an issue to deal with in many of our complex workplace settings Kathy, in consultation with the convener, seeks to work through for a solution that brings grace and dignity for all involved.

Training, recruitment and development

The HCCC continues to encourage those with an interest in chaplaincy ministries to undergo professional training which will allow them to gain accreditation and work in the highly regulated public sphere in years to come. Several members of the PCV have undergone training in Clinical Pastoral Education for hospital based ministries this year or have undertaken chaplaincy training units for schools, sports and other forms of chaplaincy.

As noted, in 2014 Mrs Suzanne Oakes is currently undertaking CPE studies at the Austin Hospital as part of a training internship at Royal Children's Hospital. The results have been very positive so far and Suzanne is relishing the opportunity of this ministry of compassionate care to children and their families at RCH. This is the type of vision that HCCC is seeking to fulfill, to train and place future pastoral care workers in significant and strategic ministry placements in Victoria.

We look forward to witnessing more evangelical chaplains / pastoral care workers taking up the work of compassionate care in Jesus name through the use of future training scholarships in Pediatric Pastoral Care, provided through the Hughes Trust.

HCCC venues of operation

HCCC Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care Co-ordinator Mrs Kathy James continues to enjoy the benefits of an office at Heathmont House. HCCC is grateful for the support of the Board of Management of Heathmont Presbyterian Church for the provision of these excellent facilities at very reasonable rental rates.

HCCC is also very thankful to Scots' Church who regularly make available one of their rooms to hold our bi-monthly committee meetings. All of the facilities are well maintained and arranged to cater for our meetings. HCCC would find it otherwise difficult to hold our meetings as several travel from the country to attend.

To both Heathmont and Scots', we are thankful under God as they enable HCCC and our workers to function well for the provision of chaplaincy across the PCV.

Words of Jesus

In everything we do, we seek to remember the words of Jesus in Matt 25:36, 'I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me' and Paul's words in Galatians 6:10, 'Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers'.

Miles Fagan
CONVENER

Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Donations & Gifts	20,295
Family Camp Income	24,899
Grants & Subsidies	29,236
Common Fund Interest	90,673
Total Income	165,103

Expenditure:

Chaplaincy Fees, Salaries and Benefits	45,100
Grants	16,888
Education & Training Chaplains	657
Ministers' Family Camp & Retreats	46,384
General Expenses	2,358
Insurance	1,030
Secretarial, Postage & Stationery	835
Committee and Travel	9,882
Chaplaincy Co-ordinator	29,305
Total Expenditure	152,440

Surplus on General Operations

12,663

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	975,344
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	12,663
Add back Depreciation	640
Assets Purchased	(697)
Accruals	2,210
Balance 30/6/14	990,160

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	Walton	P Burnett	H Hughes
Income:			
Common Fund Interest	458	73,596	1,293
Income on Separate Investments			66,158
Realised and Unrealised Gain on Investments			168,413
Total Income	458	73,596	235,864
Expenditure:			
Personnel Related	1,000	80,031	64,169
Committee and travel Expenses		4,266	
Office Expenses		360	
Total Expenditure	1,000	84,657	64,169
Surplus/(Deficit) on Specific Trusts	(542)	(11,061)	171,694

Movements in Funds

	P Burnett+ Walton Common Fund	H Hughes Common Fund	Separately Invested	Total
Balance 1/7/13	629,884	6,908	407,127	1,000,881
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(11,602)	(62,877)	234,571	171,694
Index Perpetual Balance	0	0	(91,043)	(91,043)
Transfers	0	80,101	(80,101)	-
Balance 30/6/14	618,282	24,132	470,554	1,081,533

Perpetual Trust Accounts

Balance 30/6/14	967,262
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HOME MISSION WORKER'S ASSOCIATION (Min. 73)

With thanks to God for his guidance and support I present the report to Assembly on the work of the H.M.W.A.

The Committee has eight members. Support to theological students was given with grants for books and Christmas cheques; also home missionaries with mid-year and Christmas cheques.

The Thanksgiving and Dedication Service was held on 14th November 2013 in the Robert White Hall, Collins Street, Melbourne. The Victorian Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer brought the greetings from the Assembly; also he spoke of the encouraging the work of the church.

The guest preacher, Rev Philip Daffy, minister, Malvern Presbyterian Church, preached from Acts 2:42-47, describing the early church 'as it met together, caring and sharing in the community' encouraging us to follow this work today in the same way.

Thankyou to Philip for his message and to the Moderator, Rt Rev David Palmer for his encouragement, also to Mr John Meyer for his music. Our appreciation also to the Links and the people who attend to support the work of the HMWA.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 29th April 2014 in the Robert White Hall. Guest speaker, Mr Brett Cummings, 3rd year student at Presbyterian Theological College gave the message from Galatians 6: 9-10. 'Let us not give up doing good as we have the opportunity ...especially to those who are of the household of faith'. Our commission is to continue preaching the gospel which Jesus taught us. 'Not to turn away, for it is only by grace not by works that we are saved.' Our thanks to Brett for his message.

Rev Dr R Carner, Director, Ministry Development Committee chaired the Annual General Meeting. The office bearers elected were:

President Mrs Carolyn Wentworth;
Vice President Mrs Eileen Blythe;
Secretary Miss Barbara Firth;
Treasurer Mrs Kathy Gilmour;
Committee members Mrs Jeanette Chapman and Mrs Patsy Lau.

Rev Dr R Carner gave a comprehensive report of the home missionaries and their congregations and encouraged a power-house of prayer to support home mission work.

Committee changes were: Miss Rion Jennings has retired as President due to ill-health and has moved to Hostel care. We thank Rion for her many years of loyal service and dedication to the work of HMWA. Her inspiration and leadership will be sorely missed. We ask God's blessing on her for good health, peace and joy.

Home Missionary changes were:

new appointments Rev Hugh Price, Castlemaine,
 Pastor Colin Morrow, Sunraysia, Mildura.

Pastor John Gething deceased, and Pastor Ian Smith retired.

Links: The Committee is striving to establish links and communication within congregations.

With thanks to God and all who support the work of the HMWA.

Barbara Firth
HON SECRETARY

MAINTENANCE OF THE MINISTRY COMMITTEE (Min. 50)

The committee reports the following matters to the October Assembly 2014.

1. Membership and meetings of the Committee

The committee (MMC) has undergone another change in membership with all members except two being country located and now meetings are being held in Melton. Even with the changes and new members, the committee is still one short of its complement of six (6) members.

As mentioned in the previous convener's report, there has been a learning curve for our members, but we believe all the positions are now settled and the committee is functioning satisfactorily. There should now be little delay in processing the various requests, including Annual Parish Reports (APR) that come to the committee.

2. Annual Parish Report Compliance

Of the approximate 100 parishes in the Victorian Presbyterian Church, some 60% complied with Assembly resolutions to complete and send their APR to presbytery and then, if approved, to the MMC. There is need for more improvement both in percentage compliance and timeliness.

3. Congregational Annual Financial Reports

At the end of a parish's financial period, the treasurer finalises the books, prepares and prints the annual reports and arranges the books to be audited by the congregation's appointed auditor(s). The APR is prepared using data from the previous year's APR; the centre column (column B) of the financial summary page (now page 3) is transferred to the left column (column C) of the same page and from the latest audited report, the centre column is filled in. A reasonable budget is entered in the right column (column A). When the church's approved chart of accounts is used, the filling in of this form is easy. The terms of settlement page are filled in (now page 2) and totals transferred to page 3. The APRE (computer form of the APR) does the totals transfer automatically. In this process which includes other information, the board of management approves the APR (if using the APRE, the printout is then the APR) and it is signed by the secretary or the treasurer. The audited annual financial statements and the APR budget are reported to the congregation for approval. After approval the APR is signed by the moderator and sent to presbytery. The parish must keep a copy. The presbytery does its own checking of the APR and if satisfied, approves and sends it to the MMC for its appraisal. Any reasons for requests for grants must be supported by the presbytery.

4. Requests for Sustentation and other Grants

The process of receiving, assessing and paying sustentation has been reviewed and for a smoother and timely operation the following is the protocol that is being followed for this and subsequent financial years. Congregational annual financial reporting is described above and is a required first step in the request for sustentation which should be carried out ASAP at the end of the financial period. The board of management should be continuously aware of their financial position

throughout the year and should understand a need for haste. The following are the cut-offs.

The MMC will receive applications for grants (sustentation etc) up to its meeting in late September and the church office notified of any that are approved and payment will be back paid to the commencement of the financial year (1 July). Any subsequent applications for such grants will be considered at the next MMC meeting which will be about two months later and the monthly rate will commence in that month (no back dating) when the church office is notified. For sustentation, the maximum monthly rate is the maximum sustentation grant amount (\$10,080 for 2014-15) divided by 12.

Urgent applications can still be made and unaudited current financial information (in column B) can be supplied but the previous years audited information (column C of the financial information page) must be supplied and urgent APRs with a blank column C will be returned to parish and presbytery unless the committee is notified by resolution including documented reasons.

5. APR forms and APRE program on the Web

The latest APR (manually filled in form) will be available from the pcv.org.au website and will be available in two versions i.e. calendar year and financial year and will have the budget year filled in, so please select the correct one. Initially there will be versions for the financial years 2013-14 and 2014-15 and calendar years 2013, 2014 and 2015.

If downloading the APRE Excel program, there is also an MS Word instructions file that goes with it and should assist in using the program. The registrar can be contacted for assistance if required.

6. Last Financial Year Sustentation, Travel and Superannuation Grants

Eight applications for sustentation were received, approved and paid for in the 2013-2014 financial year. One travel grant and seven superannuation subsidies were also approved and paid.

7. Long Service Leave

A total of seven ministers requested long service leave in the past year and all requests were granted. In addition, one minister was received from interstate.

Again the committee thanks Mr Michael Ellison and the PCV Office staff for supplying this and other information on our behalf, particularly in respect of Long Service Leave entitlements.

Presbyteries are again encouraged to urge ministers to take their ordinary leave and long service leave as soon as possible in a reasonable time frame after it is due to them.

Your committee particularly points out to presbyteries and parishes that 'Long Service Leave must be taken before retirement.' (MMC regulation 28). Despite this, your committee has again received several requests in the past year for the pay out of accrued LSL entitlements. While such pay outs can be made for

'retirement due to sickness' or in 'exceptional cases', it is not the normal practice. In the interest of fairness and equality the committee will, unless directed otherwise by the Assembly, adhere to past precedents and the requirement of Clause 28.

8. Interest Free Component of Ministers' Car Loans

The ministers' car loans scheme continues to be operated by the TC/BIF. A subsidy, overseen by this committee holds the rate payable to a maximum of 5% on the first portion of the loan.

In all, \$9,742 was used to subsidise loans under this scheme during the past year. Six new loans were made, and there are 24 loans totaling \$151,433 outstanding at the beginning of this current financial year.

9. Finance

Your committee notes an Income on General Operations for the year ended 30 June, 2014 of \$106,179 (budget \$112,000) Expenditure \$103,247 (budget \$170,900) resulting in a surplus of \$2,932 (budgeted deficit \$58,900). Long Service Leave Funds suffered a deficit of \$6,772 (budgeted surplus \$5,957). We praise God for his generous provision of the financial needs of the committee and look forward to the future with confidence and hope in support of the work of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

10. Individual Parish Assistance

The registrar is willing on an availability basis to give help to local church treasurers and even arranging a visit preferably in daylight hours during the week and can include if possible some country visits. During this year a basic set of church treasurer's books are envisaged to be described with a model set of books and data.

11. Other Matters

The committee does consider a variety of matters at and between its meetings and tries to respond appropriately according to the scope of its responsibilities.

Dennis K Wright
CONVENER

Maintenance of the Ministry Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

	<u>General</u>	<u>Long Service Leave</u>	<u>Total</u>
Income:			
Long Service Leave Levy		39,900	39,900
Grant from Balfour Trust	11,815		11,815
Other Investment Income	6,881		6,881
Common Fund Interest	87,483	100,752	188,235
Total Receipts	106,179	140,652	246,831
Expenditure:			
Interest Subsidy Car Loans	9,742		9,742
Sustentation Expense General	79,208		79,208
Grants for Superannuation	11,815		11,815
Committee Expenses	2,482		2,482
Long Service Leave		147,424	147,424
Total Expenditure	103,247	147,424	250,671
Surplus on General Operations	2,932	(6,772)	(3,840)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	816,467	1,139,570	1,956,037
(Decrease) / Increase in Liabilities	-	88,003	88,003
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	2,932	(6,772)	(3,840)
Balance 30/6/14	819,399	1,220,801	2,040,200

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/14	42,466	0	42,466
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METRO COMMITTEE (Min. 110)

METRO has been operating, in one form or another, for 10 years in the PCV. God has richly blessed us as a denomination. METRO is a two-year, partly funded, full-time traineeship designed to give people a taste of local church ministry and theological study to determine if that is where God wants them to serve.

METRO is not an alternative to formal theological education but rather prepares and complements it. For the METRO trainees the METRO experience becomes a filter through which theological study is viewed. The trainee understands theology within the proper context of evangelism and church.

youthMETRO is a one year traineeship focussed on preparing and growing youth leaders in local churches. Like METRO, youthMETRO aims to prepare trainees to be, think and serve like Jesus, with a specific focus on doing this within youth ministries.

Whether a trainee is involved in METRO or youthMETRO the same three basic strands are covered:

Being like Jesus - Personal Godliness The main focus in this strand is daily personal bible reading, prayer and personal evangelism. Trainees and trainers will spend time in their catch ups discussing issues arising from this crucial daily time with God and documenting prayer points.

Thinking like Jesus - Theological Reflection To be able to teach the Bible, first trainees must understand the Bible, its history and content. This is the main focus of this strand.

Serving like Jesus - Ministry Skills In this strand the trainees will develop their ministry skills. Fundamental to the progress made, will be the transition of the trainee into a trainer role. A basic pattern in each ministry skill is for the trainee to pass on what they have learnt with another person - learning through teaching others.

Currently the METRO committee has five funded METRO trainees:

Mr Chris Berry
Mr Matthew DeRoon
Mr Bryce Wiegant
Miss Michelle Buckley
Mr Joel Otten

Our youthMETRO trainees are:

Diana Mina
Nate Durantini
Stephanie Oakes
Callum Haughey
Issac Johnson
Tim Sheely
Sarah Enderby
Saloni Christian
Naomi Cutler
Natasha Ziegelaar
Hannah Cloherty

Last year we reported that the METRO committee had been facing a number of administrative challenges. Not the least of which has been the implication of recent Federal Government taxation rulings. Early in 2010 MTS notified us that with the formation of the Federal Fairwork commission, ministry traineeships, like METRO, had been ruled illegal because we were not paying the minimum wage. Up until that point the \$22,000 we had been paying was not an issue but in order to comply with the new ruling we were required to pay the minimum wage. Even though we were given five years to comply such a ruling made the funding of traineeships very difficult.

The Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) leadership began a slow process of negotiation with both the ATO and FWA to secure a number of rulings that enabled traineeships to continue. This they achieved in 2011 and the effect of these rulings was that FWA now regards all traineeships registered with MTS to be cadetships, with a cadetship salary.

Since late 2010 the METRO committee has been working through the implications for our trainees. In short, we had one of three options. Pay our trainees the minimum wage. Register our trainees with MTS and be covered by their agreement with FWA. Or try and get a ruling from the ATO and FWA that covered our trainees.

We sought to do the latter. However, the advice we received from the Assembly Lawyer, while welcomed, did not make it what needed to be done. Also while we did employ an accountant to negotiate with FWA on our behalf, the matter proved to be very complex and the outcome was not particularly satisfactory.

Thus, given the complexity and likely expenses in obtaining our own ruling with the FWA and the fact that we had been advised that a denomination in NSW was fined \$175,000 for not complying with the FWA ruling, the committee needed to ensure that its trainees were either paid the minimum wage or negotiate with MTS to have our trainee's covered by their agreement.

The METRO committee is investigating the possibility of paying minimum wage to its trainees but the implications are far reaching and we will bring a fuller report to next year's Assembly. Thus, in the interim, the METRO committee has decided to seek to enter into an arrangement with MTS, enabling our trainees to be legally paid a cadetship salary. The agreement has been attached to this report.

It needs to be said that the registering of our trainees with MTS means that if the PCV are audited by FWA we have a certificate from an authorised body (MTS) which states our traineeships comply with the FWA standards. The METRO curriculum, selection process, funding and authority over the program remain in the hands of the Assembly through the METRO committee.

Andrew May
CONVENER

METRO Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	85,097
Events	341
Youth Metro Income	1,990
Total Income	<u>87,428</u>

Expenditure:

Grants Paid	56,182
Youth Metro Expenses	9,768
Subsidy for Training Officer	30,000
General Expenses	2,302
Total Expenditure	<u>98,252</u>

<u>Surplus on General Operations</u>	<u>(10,824)</u>
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Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	873,724
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(10,824)
<u>Balance 30/6/14</u>	<u>862,900</u>

MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (Min. 90)

1. Composition of the Team

The committee comprised a convener and six committee members: Rev Grant Lawry (convener), Mrs Michelle Brennan, Dr Bruce Ellis, Rev Ian Hutton, Rev John Rickard, Rev Gerald Vanderwert and Mr Norm Sharp. Our Ministry Development Director, Rev Dr Robert Carner, attends committee meetings, along with our secretary, Mr Ben Palmer. The convener will retire at the rising of the Assembly.

We give thanks to God that Robert Carner has fully recovered from neurological surgery in early 2013. He took 12 weeks of accumulated holiday (accumulation due to not taking holiday in the lead up to and during his moderatorial year) in the last quarter of 2013 and returned to a full schedule in January 2014. The committee held a Planning Day in late January 2014 to set the priorities for its work for the year.

2. Core business of the Ministry Development Committee

The Ministry Development Committee has a wide-ranging brief to use its resources for ministry development through training, encouragement, general consultancy, implementation of the IIM and DIM and funding of churches where necessary. Ministry Development Committee services and support are available to all churches: sanctioned charges, appointment parishes, and home mission stations. In each case and in particular for home mission stations, we seek, as always, to work in cooperation with the session and presbytery of jurisdiction.

3. Healthy Churches Checklist – a tool for Presbyteries and Parishes

How do we determine what a 'Healthy Church' looks like?

The Ministry Development Committee seeks to be a strong force in inspiring and building up the church to meet the challenges of today, to see the gospel of the Lord Jesus and the Christian world and life view firmly entrenched in every church. We seek to inspire a love for the truth of Scripture with evangelism and discipleship being a natural expression of the faith.

Our regulations state:

4. The committee shall be responsible to the General Assembly for the work of building, revitalising and promoting healthy churches (an activity formerly carried on by a Committee of the General Assembly known as the Home Mission Committee) in the state of Victoria. Such work is to be in conjunction with the Presbytery which has the primary responsibility for the health of congregations within its bounds.

In seeking to understand what a healthy church should look like and how it should function, the following healthy churches checklist is intended to challenge, stimulate and move a church toward understanding where it is at and then making changes where necessary. The MDC seeks to promote and assist presbyteries and churches in this process and has some diagnostic tools to further assess and encourage a church to grow.

The Checklist

A healthy church has a clear and motivating vision of its purpose, role and function.

Does the church have a compelling vision for its future?

- Is the vision clear, memorable and specific?
- Can the pastor, leaders and congregation verbalise the church's vision?
- Does the vision motivate the church into action?
- Is the church willing to sacrifice, change, take risks, even suffer for the sake of the gospel?

A healthy church is a church which produces fruit.

- Is the number of those attending static / increasing / decreasing?
- Have there been conversions / baptisms?
- Are there signs that people are changing as God works in their heart?
- Are people discovering and using their spiritual gifts?
- How are newcomers made to feel part of the church family?

A healthy church is a God-worshipping church

- Does worship engage hearts, minds and emotions in glorifying God?
- Is worship planned to engage and influence both Christians and those not yet committed to Christ of all generations/ages?

A healthy church has elders who are spiritually mature and alive and who minister, serve, pray, visit and exhibit a godly lifestyle.

- Do elders humbly serve in a way that provides a godly example?
- Do elders preach?
- Do elders lead in prayer?
- Do elders lead Bible studies?
- Do elders attend the church ministries?
- Do elders verbalise the gospel?
- Do elders visit?
- Do elders lead in devotions and pray with members?
- Do elders attend any training sessions?
- Are elders able to promote the spiritual development of the members?
- Do elders own and accept the Westminster Confession of Faith as an exhibition of the sense in which they understand the scriptures and as a confession of their faith?

A healthy church supports the ministry financially from its tithes/offerings

- What is the giving?
- Does the church rely on investments?
- Is the church receiving sustentation/subsidy?

A healthy church has a love for the gospel and a missional focus

- Does the church interact with the culture around it?
- Is the church passionate about reaching its community, nation and world with the gospel?
- Does the church warmly welcome people of all ages, cultures, socio economic groups and special needs people?
- Is the gospel faithfully and clearly proclaimed?
- Is God's grace clearly understood?

A healthy church is a church which cares for its own people and its neighbours

- Are loving relationships developing between congregation members?

- Is the church engaging with its surrounding community for gospel driven purposes?
- Are small groups meeting the needs for spiritual growth and fellowship?
- How are congregational members encouraging one another? Hebrews 10:25
- How are members spurring each other on toward love and good deeds? Hebrews 10:24
- Does the church demonstrate God's passion for the poor, homeless, disabled and those suffering?
- Are biblical principles used when handling conflict?

A healthy church is a church which prays

- What opportunities for corporate prayer does the congregation have?
- How many attend these times?

A healthy church is a church whose leaders make disciples of the Lord Jesus

- How is the church intentional about encouraging its members to have attitudes and behaviour that mirror Christ?
- Do leaders humbly work together as a team?
- Do members joyfully share time, talents, and treasures?
- Are leaders intentional about training future leaders for the church?

A healthy church is a church which has healthy ministry leadership.

- Is the minister [and his wife] in good physical health?
- Is the minister encouraged to grow spiritually by attending conferences, lectures, etc.?
- Does the minister have regular holidays and a weekly day off?
- Is the minister able to prayerfully share any personal concerns with his elders or presbytery colleagues?

The committee sees this checklist as a diagnostic tool in its own right, to be used by ministers, moderators, sessions and presbyteries in assessing church health. It may be submitted to the MDC in support of grant applications.

Ministry Tool Box

A further, personal assessment of the current ministry of a congregation is available through the Ministry Tool Box. The authors of the Ministry Tool Box state: "Ministry Planning is the result of mobilising believers (people) who effectively and efficiently relate to and engage their ministry environment (perspective), to meet the objectives of their church's mandate (philosophy) using the most appropriate action plans (projects), in pursuit of fulfilling the Great Commission. Ministry is not complicated but it is complex. Each part is relatively easy to manage on its own, but the church world becomes very complex when you take people and programs that are used to "doing their own thing" and attempt to integrate them together to gain maximum impact. That integration is what the Tool Box attempts to achieve." Our Ministry Development Director is available to consult with congregations and presbyteries in the use of this helpful diagnostic tool.

4. Assessment of Grant Applications

The issue of the health of churches becomes of particular relevance when parishes apply to the MDC for subsidy grants. These are for the support of the ministers or home missionaries and not to meet maintenance, equipment or capital works costs (which are sometimes loaded into the budget). An approved MDC grant may fill the void between a well thought-out budget and their actual income. Parishes may

separately apply for specific capital works grants and evangelism grants, but these must not be included in subsidy requests.

Subsidy applications are to include a statement/strategy regarding plans to build the church spiritually and in numbers as well as a challenge to the members to give generously of their time and resources to their church. In assessing these applications, the committee has put into practice two policy measures:

1. Any grant applications for an amount of \$20,000pa or more will be subject to congregational assessment carried out by the Ministry Development Director; this assessment may include the use of the Ministry Tool Box and the Healthy Churches Checklist as mentioned earlier in this report.
2. Our Ministry/Grant Application Form requires details of the measures being implemented by the applicant congregation to reach into the community and includes a format (based on the categories employed in the Annual Parish Report) for a projected budget for the forthcoming financial year.

In addition, the committee is bound by its regulations and the Code as follows:

1. The 10-year-rule continues to ensure that congregations in receipt of grants over a long term must come to the Assembly after 10 years of support to justify the continuation of grants for their work.
2. The regulations state that the MDC should not fund a declining church for more than a year.

The onus of assessing a grant application carefully and ensuring that all relevant financial information is provided prior to resolving to approve the application rests squarely with the presbytery. A number of congregations have this year reached their tenth consecutive year of MDC funding and will be required to approach the 2015 GAV for any extension of their funding. If funding is to continue, it is not unreasonable to expect that the presbytery concerned will have a realistic strategy (agreed with the MDC) for the future health and viability of the parish, or have a clear rationale regarding the strategic importance of the parish.

5. Home Mission Stations, Home Missionaries and their 2013-14 appointments.

	Home Missionary/ Minister	Moderator (where applicable)
Blackburn	Vacant	Rev M James
Cardinia-Koo-Wee-Rup	Supply	Rev P Roberts
Cranbourne	Rev Peter Roberts	
Carisbrook-Castlemaine	Rev Hugh Price	
Clarinda	Supply	Rev G Weber
Eaglehawk	HM Steven Arbuckle	Rev P Burns
Footscray West	HM Richard Jeganathan	Rev J Cho
Kaniva-Nhill	Vacant	Rev S North
Leongatha	Rev Gary Wentworth	
Sale	Vacant	Rev G Stephens
Seymour-Nagambie-Yea	Supply	Rev J Playfoot
SE Samoan (Lyndhurst)	Rev Kainano Opetai	
Skipton-Lismore	Vacant	Rev I Hutton
Sunraysia	HM Colin Morrow	
Templestowe	HM Adrian Kebbe	Rev Alan Every
Warburton	Rev Chuol Yat	
Wodonga	Supply	Rev P Seiler

Mr Colin Morrow was installed in March 2014 into the Sunraysia district to 50% pastor the Sunraysia Home Mission Station and 50% PIM ministry. His ministry is well received in this region.

Rev Hugh Price was installed in August 2013 to an interim role into the Castlemaine – Carisbrook parish. This was going to be a temporary role while in preparation to return to the mission field in Japan. He is well received in the churches and region so we would not be disappointed if it became a long term pastoral relationship.

Rev Chuol Yat was appointed to the Warburton Home Mission Station in August 2014.

Gisborne has been raised by the Presbytery of Melbourne West to an appointment parish following the exit appointment of Matt Tegart.

Kerang and Pyramid Hill have been incorporated with Swan Hill into a new appointment parish called Northern Lakes by the Presbytery of North Western Victoria; which has appointed Rev Miles Fagan to the parish.

Ian Smith completed his service as Home Missionary at Kaniva-Nhill in December 2013. We are very thankful to him and Jan for their endeavours there.

It still remains our goal (along with Queensland and NSW) to standardise the qualifications for a Home Missionary sufficiently to recognise them between the states without having to go through the process of re-qualifying. This is an ongoing exploration.

The number of applicants for home mission service continues to be very low. An advertising/information campaign in early 2014 has produced some fruit and may lead to a few appointments.

6. Staffing: Recruitment and Training for Ministry

During the reporting period, the PCV had 103 employed ministers, licentiates, home missionaries and one registered long term supply minister. There are more part time pastoral workers and private appointments that the MDC cannot report on as they do not appear on the LSL report.

As reported in the previous two years, the estimates and predictions below are reported as a reminder to the wider church that we must increase the intake at the Presbyterian College. In the past we have reported this and been asked, 'What are we doing about it?' The MDC can encourage potential candidates to enrol in the PTC but it is just as much the responsibility of every one of our churches to pray for the Lord to raise up suitable men and proactively promote this need. We are thankful for PYV and Metro programs in inspiring people to consider ministry and providing for them a window of opportunity to 'test the waters'.

In this year's assessment of succession planning for existing parishes, the data is more encouraging than in previous years, as we have had a number of younger candidates study and graduate from the PTC, and we have raised the assessment age now assuming a retirement age of 67. We need to keep in mind that the preparation time for a new minister is four plus years. Some of the men who put their hands up for training in 2014-15 may not be ready to exit/serve until 2020-21.

Any calculations regarding succession planning are estimates at best. Some will choose to serve significantly longer; and yes, we may lose some early due to health, death or personal reasons.

We must all be very thankful for the significant number of retired ministers who are still active in serving the Lord through short term ministry appointments, interim moderatorships, committee work and other consultative ministries. As many of them are doing volunteer work they fall out of the superannuation records and subsequently our calculations on serving ministers. We owe a debt of gratitude to them for their sacrifice of time and resources for the work of the Kingdom.

Age Range	No. of Mins/HMs	Comments
70+	4	In total, we have 18 ministers 64 or older who could retire any time soon. Planning must be put in place for their retirement. Candidates entering the PTC today may be the ones replacing these ministers.
67 – 69	7	
64 – 66	9	
60 – 63	10	
58 – 59	10	
51 – 57	29	
43 – 50	17	
30 – 42	15	

Based on data alone, just to maintain/serve the current number of churches based on a realistic succession plan, we should have up to 30 candidates in training to replace the men who are between 61 and 70. This does not include candidates who will be exited to new church plants.

Last year we noted that the Principal had indicated an encouraging number of men applying to be candidates for the ministry and seeking to enrol in the College. In fact there have been 13 new candidates in the past year making a total of 18 candidates.

Candidates at the beginning of 2014 were as follows: Chris Dean, Russell Grinter, Chris Duke, Christian Tirtha, Luke Brownley, Stephen Jones, Brett Cummins, Stephen McDonald, Daniel Dixon, Karl Hood, Daryl Jackson, Greg Matthews, Nick Arundell, Jordan Brown, Wayne McArdle, Luke McSevery, Ben Nelson and Jesse Walz.

The expected exit dates for these candidates are:

2014 5 exit students
 2015 4 exit students
 2016 4 exit students
 2017 1 exit student
 2018 4 exit students

The numbers in 2015 and thereafter may change as new candidates are approved.

There has been a pleasing increase in the number of students studying at the College. Total enrolment of students for semester 1 this year was 75; an increase of 13 on semester 2, 2013 and an increase of 28 on semester 2, 2012.

By 2020 using 2014 as a starting date, we need to be praying about the opportunity and need to train or otherwise recruit, up to 71 candidates progressively required over the next six years.

Pray for our College and for METRO as they recruit and train candidates for ministry.

7. Inventory of Churches

We are not always informed of church closures and realignment of parishes so this information is mostly reliable but could have some slight errors. We suspect that possibly two of the listed churches are not operating but are still shown in the records.

Presbytery	# of parishes	total # of churches	
Ballarat	9	18	
Benalla	8	19	
Flinders	14	17	
Geelong	6	10	
Gippsland	7	8	
Kilnoorat	7	12	
Maroondah	9	9	(inc Kirkbrae)
Melbourne East	15	17	
Melbourne North	11	12	
Melbourne West	13	14	(plus Darwin)
North Western Victoria	6	8	
Totals	105	144	

8. MDC Finance

Financial Summary

The Common Fund balance of the committee's General Fund as at 30 June 2014 was \$1,769,655, down by just over \$500,000 from the previous year. Although the actual deficit was almost exactly in line with the budgeted deficit, half of the actual deficit was due to the transfer of the Ararat and Bairnsdale properties to their congregations as agreed with the Board of Investment and Finance. As was the case in the 2012-2013 year, only 40% of the \$900,000 budgeted to be expended in 2013-14 was actually drawn down, because of delays experienced by a number of the receiving churches (e.g. obtaining council permits, quotes from building contractors and finalising contracts and schedules for the works).

Ministry Grants paid to congregations, including Subsidies and Second Worker Grants, were this year in line with budget with the exception of Cross-Cultural Grants which were \$50,000 under budget.

Capital Grants

Capital works may include: (1) provision of new building infrastructure, or (2) provision of site infrastructure associated with and integral to a building, renovation of an existing building or space.

Capital Grant applications to the committee must demonstrate that the parish is not capable of funding the project on their own, and that the capital work will enhance ministry by providing space for a growing congregation, space for enhanced ministry

or space for special ministry not accommodated by the current facility. At this time capital grants are made for church buildings and not manses. That policy may change if more funds become available.

Capital grants do not include repairs and maintenance except in extreme special circumstances or where health and safety issues are concerned. It does not include AV equipment, Air Conditioning nor chairs and other furnishings.

Applications must all come with full financials and presbytery approval. Additionally, the congregation must make a commitment to funding a reasonable portion of the project through their own funds on hand, fundraising or borrowing through the Capital Fund.

The committee, with the encouragement of the Board of Investment and Finance has decided to adopt a policy of ongoing Capital Grants (rather than calling for applications at specific times) with the process begun by parishes lodging a Preliminary Expression of Interest Form with the committee prior to preparing a formal grant application through their presbytery. This enables the MDC to assess the intent, the amount and the timing of the need for funds and to ensure that the application will meet MDC guidelines before the detailed work is done.

In 2014-15, an amount of \$750,000 has been budgeted for Capital Grants, but in light of the uncertainties created by delays outside the control of the applicant congregations, we have sought and received assurance from the Board of Investment and Finance that they will give favourable consideration to variation of our budget to take into account outstanding grants which have dragged on for some time, such as the Ballarat West and Mornington Grants.

Even though there are often delays in starting or completing a project, we seek the assurance of congregations that they remain committed to expending their grants in a timely manner, having been subject to delays beyond their control.

9. Grants Paid and Approved

New Capital Grants approved in 2014

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Approved Grant</i>	<i>Project</i>
Burwood	80,000	Extension to Church
Clayton	150,000	Stage Two of Church Works
Donvale	50,000	Extension of "Church House" Ministry Centre
Kaniva-Nhill	25,000	Nhill Hall new toilets and restumping

2011 Capital Grant Projects still in progress

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Approved Grant</i>	<i>Project</i>
Ballarat West	343,000	Second Stage Church Building
Dandenong	175,000	Extend Worship Area
Frankston	145,000	Extend Hall and Car Park
Mornington	300,000	New Church Project

Capital Debt Reduction Grants

During the reporting period, grants were made to three parishes which had requested grants in the 2011 Round to assist with paying off debts incurred in undertaking Capital Projects; \$41,000 to Kangaroo Ground, \$4,300 to Canterbury, and \$54,700 to Korean North Balwyn.

Subsidies to Parishes

The stated amounts are paid over twelve months unless stated otherwise.

<i>Congregation(s)</i>	<i>Paid in 2013-14</i>	<i>Rate Approved for 2014-15 (PA)</i>
Ararat AP	13,500	30,000pa Jul-Dec only but parish is now vacant so not being paid
Bairnsdale AP	16,000	14,000
Brimbank AP	15,000	10,000
Broadford AP	10,000	10,000 est. pending application
Carisbrook-Castlemaine HMS	13,567	15,000
Cranbourne HMS	44,927	29,500
Daylesford AP	45,000	41,000 from Evangelism Trust
Deaf Church	18,000	15,000
Eaglehawk HMS	17,000	22,000
Gisborne AP	15,000	20,000
Horsham AP	6,333	19,000 pending an appointment
Kaniva-Nhill HMS	12,248	Awaiting application
Leongatha HMS	37,175	35,000
Skipton-Lismore AP/HMS	25,000	20,000 pending an appointment
Sunraysia HMS	5000	17,000
Templestowe* HMS	45,000	33,000pa Jul-Dec only
Wodonga HMS	-	35,000 pending an appointment

Cross-Cultural Ministry Funding

<i>Congregation(s)</i>	<i>Paid in 2013-14</i>	<i>Rate Approved for 2014-15 (PA)</i>
Bundoora Iranian Worker	-	20,000 from Evangelism Trust
Canterbury Japanese Subsidy	-	30,000pa rate from Oct to June
Canterbury Korean Worker	10,000	6,000
Clayton Assistant Pastor	23,000	-
Donvale ESL Worker	15,000	15,000
Korean North Balwyn Subsidy	12,000	12,000
Samoa South-East Subsidy	25,000	25,000
Sunshine Sudanese Worker	18,500	15,500

Second Worker Grants

<i>Congregation/Worker</i>	<i>Paid in 2013-14</i>	<i>Rate Approved for 2014-15 (PA)</i>
Bundoora Youth Coordinator	-	30,000 in 2015
Canterbury Youth Worker	10,000	-
Clayton Youth Worker	17,100	-
Donvale Youth Worker	-	30,000 in 2015
Drouin Assistant Minister	18,000	-
Eltham Assistant	9,000	14,000
Frankston Associate Minister	32,500	17,500
Heathmont Colleague & Successor	13,333	-
Surrey Hills (John Huynh, Pastoral Assistant)	5,000	-

Evangelism Grants

A total of \$26,659 in Evangelism Grants was given to the following parishes; Belgrave Heights, Cranbourne, Croydon Hills, Daylesford, Drouin, Eltham, Frankston, Geelong West, Koroit/Port Fairy, Leongatha, Reservoir, Rochester, Sunshine, Surrey Hills and Woori Yallock. Parishes may apply for up to \$1500 each financial year. Activities or events supported by grants must be intentionally evangelistic.

ESL Ministry Start-up Grants

Grants were made to Ballarat South (\$1200), Cranbourne (\$1500), and Warrnambool (\$1500).

AFES Workers

\$20,000 was given by the committee to support AFES senior campus staff workers connected with PCV congregations. The committee provides these funds to supplement the support provided by the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee.

Other Grants

\$25,000 was granted to Gisborne to assist with necessary upgrading of their manse for the benefit of their appointed Exit Student. This supplemented the parish's own contribution of \$30,000.

\$54,533 was granted to Morwell for manse works to rectify Health and Safety issues.

10. Initiatives

District Interim Moderators (DIMs)

Rev Andrew Venn was appointed as the first DIM, commencing on 4 September 2013 until he resigned on 2 April 2014. His role proved successful in one of the two parishes in the Presbytery of Maroondah to which he was appointed, but too stressful and unworkable in the other parish. The need for clear demarcation of the responsibilities of the MDC and Presbytery in relation to the DIM became apparent through these events, and the MDC sees the clear need for this to be carefully spelled out prior to the commencement of any appointment. In addition, as the DIM is an employee of the MDC, pastoral care rests firmly with the committee. In the case of Andrew Venn, the MDC acknowledges that it failed to provide the support, encouragement and care needed.

The financial arrangements for the DIM have been a certain obstacle to many parishes and presbyteries considering applying for a DIM. The MDC acknowledges that from a parish perspective, the financial arrangements need to be clear and affordable.

The key clauses from the MDC's Regulation 21b regarding DIMs are as follows:

The Committee shall

vii. provide all resources for the appointee, including a manse (if necessary), remuneration and incidental expenses incurred in his role as interim moderator/moderator of the parish/s to which he is appointed;

viii. allocate and invoice the participating parishes in proportion to the time the District Interim Moderator spends and the expenses he incurs in this ministry to each of them individually;

ix. grant financial relief upon request to any parish before or during the period of the District Interim Moderator's appointment, subject to the normal requirements and constraints on the granting of financial assistance to parishes from the Committee's funds.

The MDC believes that it is only fair that parishes should be responsible for funding the DIM at least to the same amount that they would have to pay for an Interim Moderator. Many parishes and possibly presbyteries might not be clear in this respect but it seems only right that local Interim Moderators (or Moderators) or their churches should be refunded for the travel involved in carrying out their role, as well as the cost of any supply fees incurred by their own parish due to his absence on interim moderator/moderator duties. This amount will obviously be higher for country presbyteries where large distances have to be travelled.

Taking an example from the Ballarat Presbytery, currently a minister based in Ballarat is the Interim Moderator for Kaniva-Nhill; a distance of 300km one way. The minister in question would need to make up to 6 trips a year, given that he will most likely combine Lord's Supper, Session and Board in one trip. The travel costs involved would be $6 \times 600\text{km} \times \$0.49 = \$1,766$. Add to this, say, supply for four of the six weeks he is away ($4 \times \$130 = \520) and together with travel for the supply preacher (say $4 \times 100\text{km} \times \$0.49 = \$196$) and the total cost to the Kaniva-Nhill parish would be in the order of \$2,500. If the Ballarat Presbytery together with Kaniva-Nhill decides to have a DIM appointed, then the amount that the parish should budget for and be invoiced for by the MDC would be \$2500. Most parishes could therefore expect to pay around \$2,000-\$2,500 per year for a DIM.

As the MDC sees the DIM position as a service to the church (relieving parish ministers of the extra load created by serving as Interim Moderator or Moderator of another parish), the MDC is prepared to carry the remainder of the cost, including travel from a location outside the presbytery to the presbytery boundaries and travel to presbytery meetings as well as the balance of stipend, NCB and manse allowance costs.

MDC Regulation 21b.ix quoted above seems to anticipate funding assistance by the committee to parishes to which a DIM is appointed. The regulations suggest that any parish requiring financial assistance to fund a DIM should apply through the normal grants process. The parish in question would need to provide the appropriate financial information (APR and a budget for the coming year) along with an indication of the amount the parish is prepared to contribute towards payment of the DIM and a request that the MDC make available funding for the remaining costs of the DIM.

The MDC is prepared to move forward on the basis set out above with presbyteries and parishes wishing to seek appointment of a DIM.

Intentional Interim Ministers (IIMs)

Rev Rod Waterhouse was appointed as IIM to the St Georges Geelong Parish in February 2013, and the arrangement appears to have proved helpful. Rod and our Director have completed two out of the three modules of IIM training provided by a local organisation. The model of training associated with Embers to a Flame is still our preferred modality.

11. Training

ESL Ministries

We are pleased to see more parishes taking up the opportunities presented by ESL Ministries. At least 980 students attended at least one ESL class in a PCV church in 2013, with an average of 164 students attending classes at one of our churches each week (in those parishes that have provided their statistics to us). 13 parishes are currently operating classes.

We commend to parishes the example of Donvale which has produced a brochure advertising its ESL Program, and containing testimonials from a number of students. We plan to conduct ESL ministry training sessions with Mrs Judy Rowlands of the PCNSW again in 2015. We invite applications for up to \$1500 in start-up funding from parishes that are ready to commence an ESL ministry.

Seminars

The following seminars, based on the Embers to a Flame paradigm, are offered to parishes by the committee through the Ministry Development Director;

Prayer – Why prayer is the starting place in ministry.

Evangelism – A four-week training course if offered with practical experience. This can include a Saturday session on ‘welcoming and follow-up.’

Discipleship – Our role end does not end with evangelism, we also seek to promote discipleship in part based in the material produced by Dr John Musselman of the Jackson Institute

Spiritual Gifts – An examination into the role of every Christian followed by the encouragement and enabling of people to respond to God’s call for them individually and corporately.

Small Groups – A study of small group dynamics, why and how we can implement small groups within the church.

Vision and Mission Planning – An examination of the host community and current ministry paradigm of the church in light of the biblical mandate for every church. We try to answer together, ‘What are we supposed to be doing here’ and ‘How can we construct an action plan to attain it’.

Encouragement – This is something sorely missed by many. This can be condensed to one Saturday afternoon – but looks at what the scripture tells us about encouragement.

Forgiveness and Conflict Resolution – attaining and maintaining unity and harmony in the church. How to listen with more intensity than speak with fluidity.

Family Systems and the Church - examining how issues of the past including personalities and possible roadblocks to progress may be overcome.

Leadership and Preaching Conflict Resolution and Mediation

In addition to these established seminars, recently added to the offering is a new module called Family Systems and our Church. In this module we examine how issues of the past including personalities and possibly roadblocks to progress may be overcome. This will be not only an informative module, one to challenge the church but it will also be fun!

Churches, especially small to medium size churches often function as a family. This can be a good thing but it does not define the church and its mission. How do we seek change, understand the reason for it and bring the whole family with us.

PeaceWise

Dedicated PeaceWise training for PCV ministers and elders was conducted in June 2014 and sponsored by the MDC; those who attended were richly resourced and encouraged in their roles as peacemakers and mediators. As one of the ministers in attendance wrote to us afterwards, 'I can whole-heartedly recommend it to everyone in the Presbyterian Church, particularly to ministers and elders. It is an extremely valuable tool for helping congregational members settle disputes and restore peace to their congregations'. The MDC will continue to encourage our church leaders to engage in this training which is offered by PeaceWise annually in Melbourne.

Evangelism Training

XEE training remains available to our congregations, this is our preferred modality of training individuals for evangelism. Within the next 12 months we will be 'test driving' another home grown evangelism training program. We have all seen books like 'The One Minute Manager', 'The One Minute Cure', 'The One Minute .. Preceptor, Paper, Parent', and the list goes on. This new program will not be geared to replace XEE or any other program you may want to engage in but it will be a *brief* introduction to evangelism, giving basic skills but most of all, encouragement and courage that the average person can do it.

Embers to a Flame

We remain committed to the Embers to a Flame program as a biblical and pastoral approach to church revitalisation, and offer Embers coaching on a church by church basis. Engagement with individual churches remains available and encouraged. This is an ideal follow up to the *Ministry Tool Box* assessment. The MDC is fully committed to working with our churches in assessment and developing new healthy ministry paradigms.

Sister Churches

We continue to encourage parishes to form sister church relationships, with mutual prayer at the centre. Through such relationship, stronger churches can encourage and mentor weaker churches, and smaller and less viable churches can help their larger church family understand the struggles of small and sometimes isolated churches. Sometimes parishes of similar viability and culture can connect for encouragement. It is our hope that some of these relationships will help in our understanding of cross cultural or ethnic differences (however small or large) and our similar objectives; we are one body. Engaging in a sister church relationship should not include any expectation to provide or be the recipients of funds. A sister church relationship may open the doors for mutual visitation between the sister churches.

12. Thompson Evangelism Trust

With the full support of the Board of Investment and Finance, the MDC requests the Assembly to remove and replace the current primary and secondary uses of the Thompson Evangelism Trust as defined by the 2005 Assembly; namely to fund a PCV Evangelism Officer (primary use) and to fund evangelism by congregations (secondary use). In their place we propose to simplify matters and have 'evangelism' as the sole use.

This will give the MDC far more scope to creatively and effectively use the income from this Trust to promote the work of evangelism in the congregations and presbyteries of our church and through the evangelistic work of Presbyterian ministry workers. Currently such income is being used to fund evangelism grants (up to \$1,500 per congregation per annum), to contribute towards the funding of PCV ministry workers in congregations (funding 25% of Second Worker Grants), and in tertiary educational institutions (funding 50% of the PCV's contribution to our AFES staff workers) and to support special evangelism projects such as the work of the Daylesford congregation to reach New Age proponents and of the Bundoora congregation to reach the Iranian community through the employment on a part-time basis of an Iranian worker. Such projects are subject to regular reviews.

13. Supply Preachers List

Dr Murray Adamthwaite, Carrum Downs, 9773 5448

Gilbert Bell, Sunshine 9311 4103

Rev Neil Benfell, Warrnambool, 5562 7771

Kevin Childs, Hawthorn 9819 4802

Carey Cox, Hawthorn 9818 1131

David Cox, Ivanhoe, 9497 4785

Fraser Diack, Warrnambool, 5561 0525

Ken McClimont, Ormond 9578 5580

Bruce Miller, Mill Park 9494 2003

Keith Mitchell, Ballarat, 5335 9379

Charles Okwo, St Albans 0407 543 221

Colin Phillips, Bacchus Marsh 5367 7323, Mobile 0438 536 770

Norm Sharp, Ballarat, 5334 3747

Rev Phil Simmonds, Melton, 0418 986 474

Dennis Wright, Melton 9746 9706, Mob 0417 571 809

SUPPLEMENTARY REPORT

STATISTICAL RETURNS FOR 2013

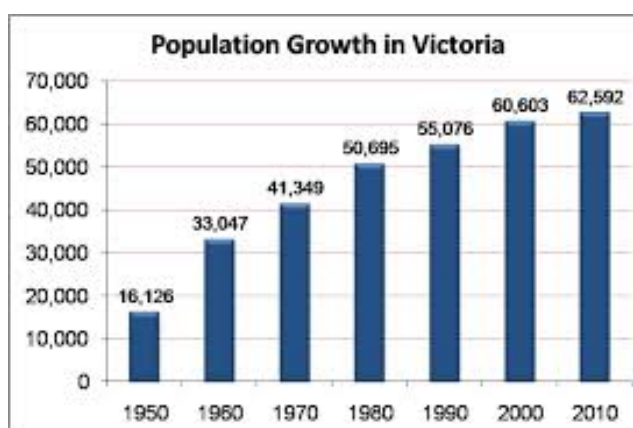
Introduction

A question that we all have to ask is, “Are we growing in proportion to population growth?”

Victoria is growing each year between 1.2% and 1.8%, and we have had an increase in attendance this year of 2.7%. This sounds good but it is not a call to get comfortable. While attendance has increased, our combined communicant and adherent membership has decreased slightly starting the year with 6,687 and ending with 6,651.

Our state is still leading the nation in population growth. As of March 31, our population was estimated at 5.71 million — a 1.8 per cent annual increase. The state grew by 102,000 people over the last year, more than NSW and the mining boom states of Queensland and WA, according to the latest Australian Bureau of Statistics data.

Victoria’s recent growth has been powered by net overseas migration, which reached almost 20,000 in the March quarter and was higher than that of NSW. Consequently, our congregations need to consider how they address this challenge through ESL and other cross-cultural ministry and evangelism.

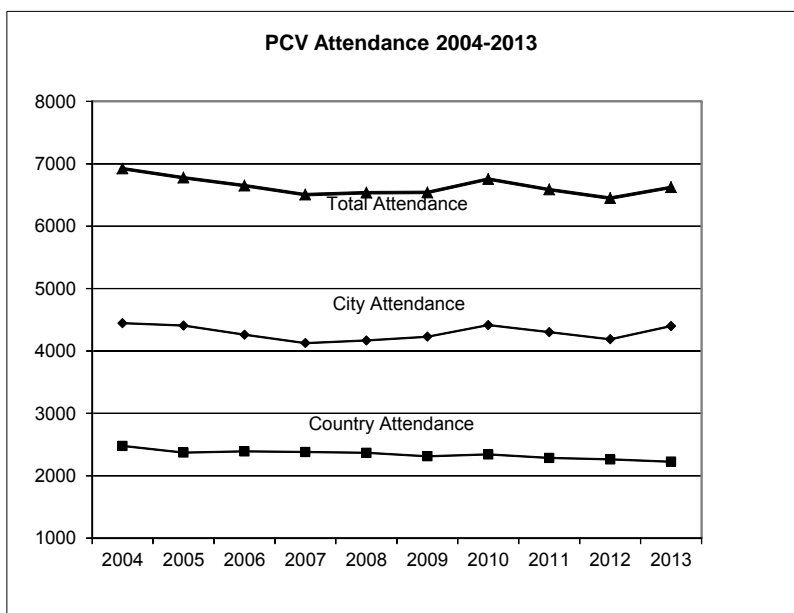


State-by-state population statistics and projections

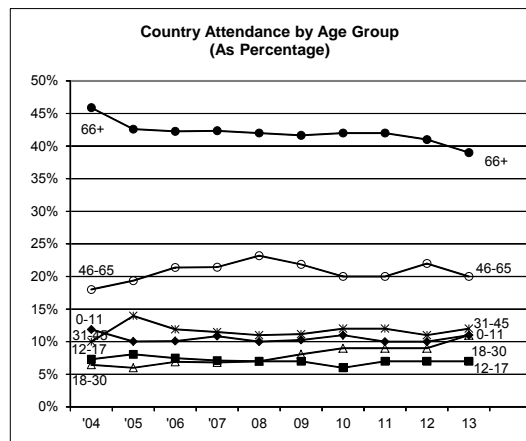
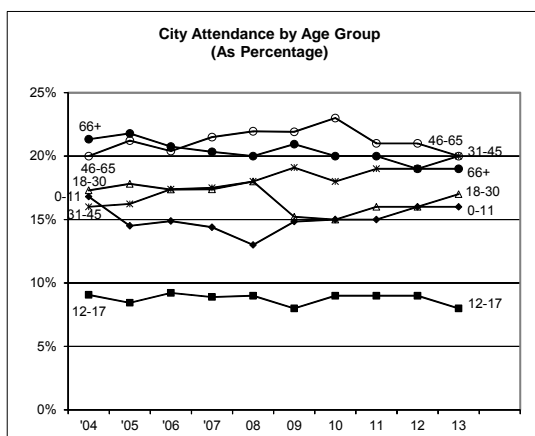
State	2012	% of national	2061	% of national	Avg annual growth
NSW	7,305,882	32.2%	11,475,527	27.6%	0.9%
Vic	5,630,855	24.8%	10,305,516	24.8%	1.2%
Qld	4,568,414	20.1%	9,259,341	22.3%	1.5%
SA	1,656,454	7.3%	2,308,149	5.6%	0.7%
WA	2,434,738	10.7%	6,402,253	15.4%	2.0%
Tas	512,199	2.3%	565,710	1.4%	0.2%
NT	235,233	1.0%	453,024	1.1%	1.3%
ACT	375,076	1.7%	740,903	1.8%	1.4%

Source: ABS, RP Data

Attendance

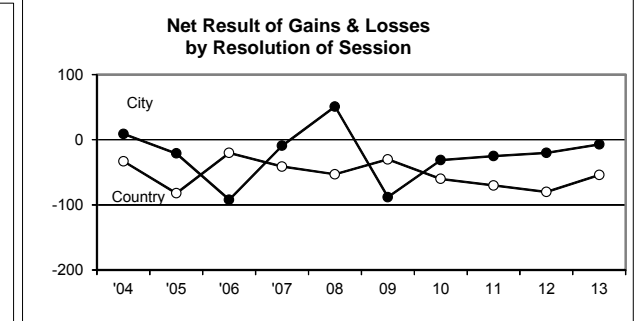
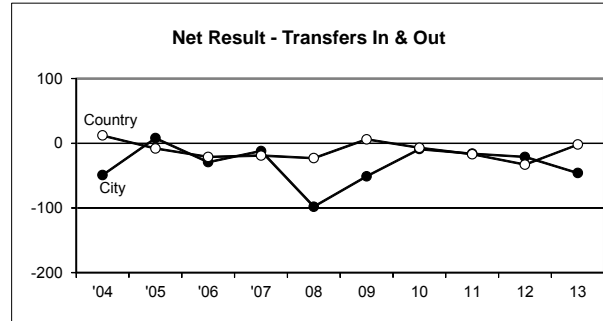
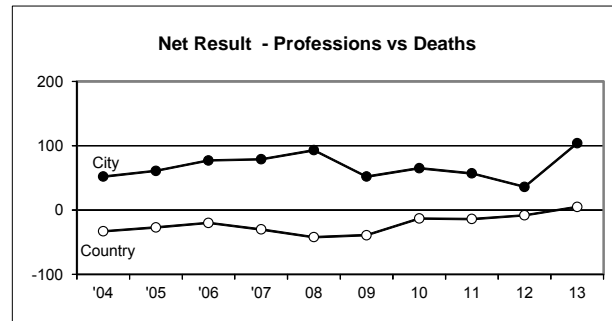
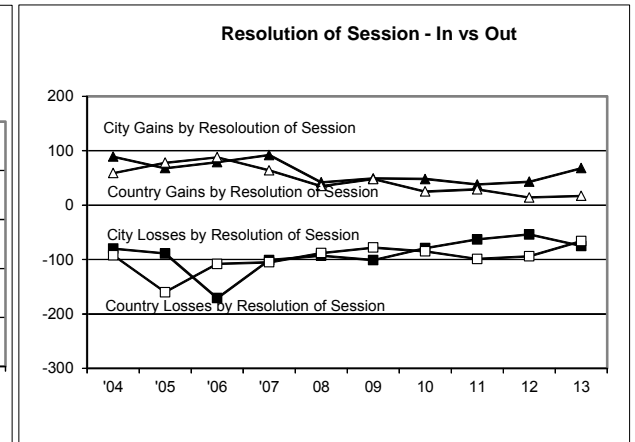
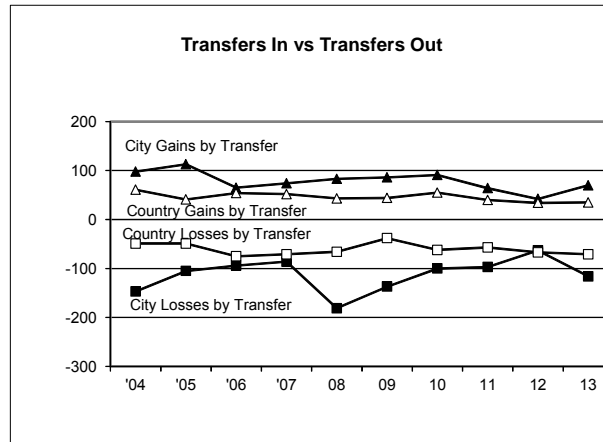
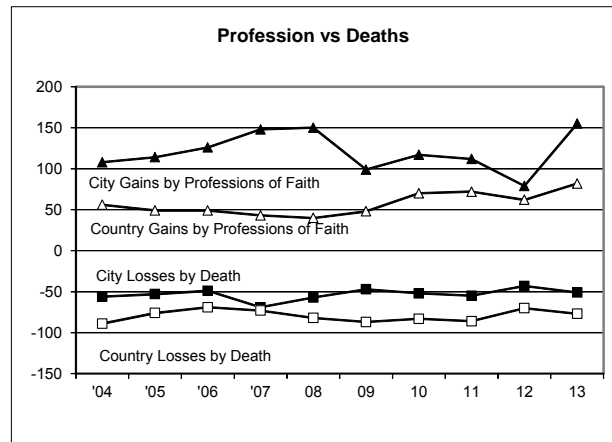


Total average weekly attendance at worship services across the Presbyterian Church of Victoria rose by 175 in 2013, to 6624. City presbyteries had a rise of 212 whereas rural areas saw a slight fall of 37.

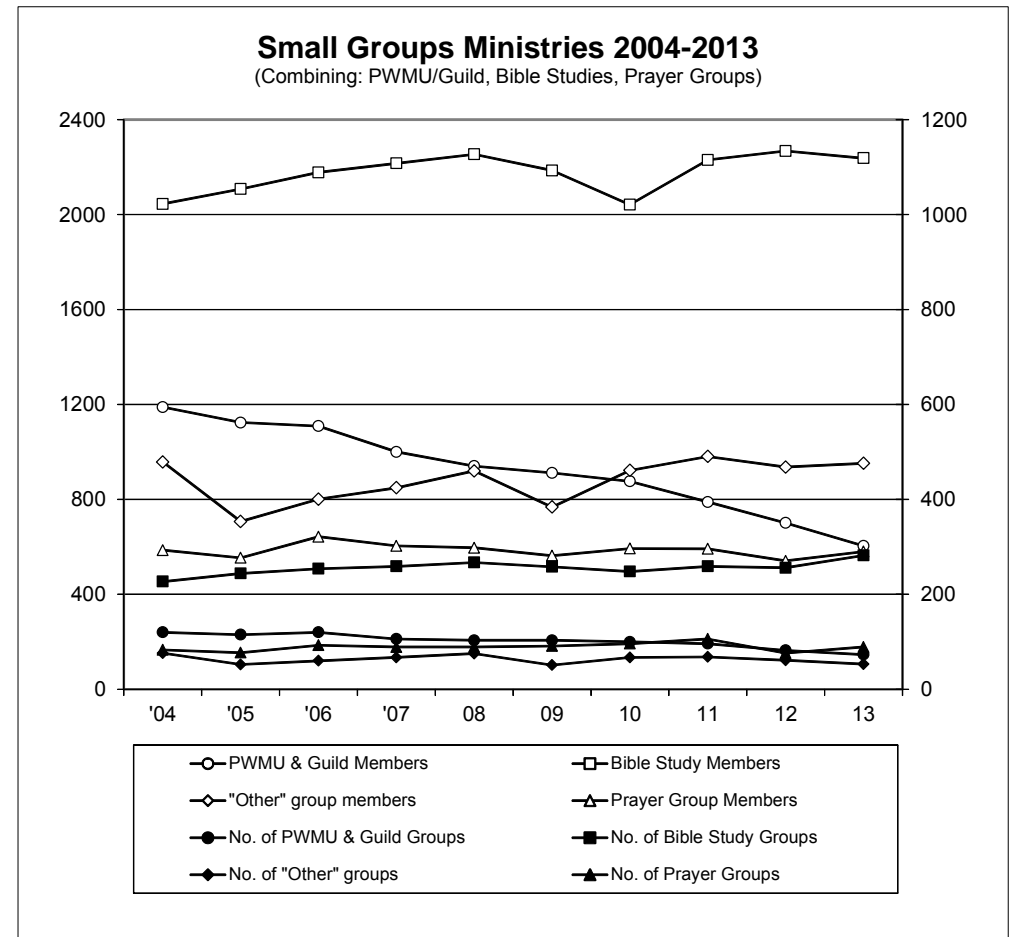
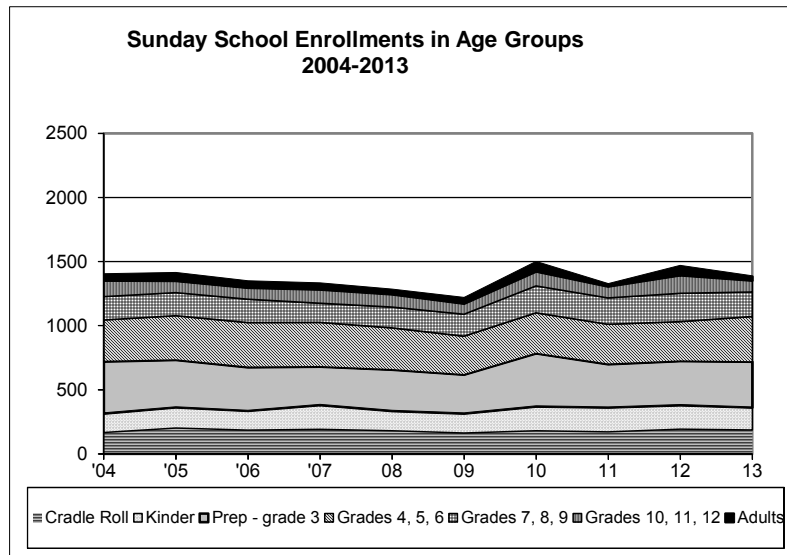
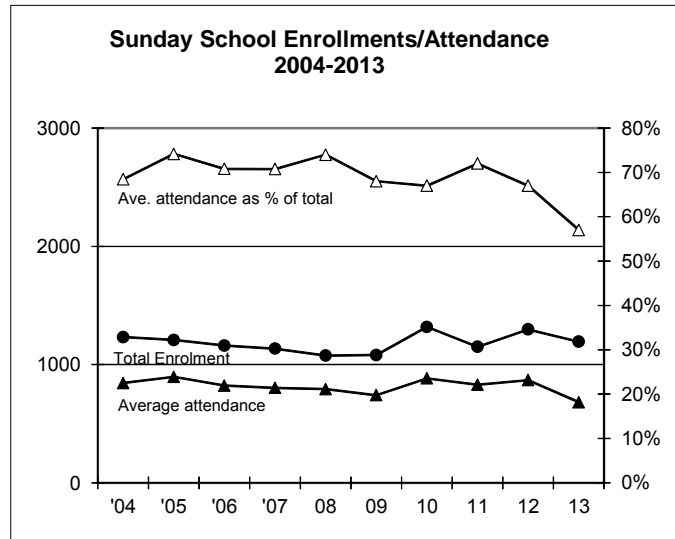


In city presbyteries the percentage of attendees aged between 31 and 45 has risen by 4% over the last 10 years. The age profile for country presbyteries continues to be more skewed to older attendees, though the percentage of those attending aged over 66 has fallen 7% over the last 10 years, and that of those aged 18-30 has risen 5%.

Membership Gains versus Losses 2004-2013



It was a good year for professions of faith in city and country with increases in both. Overall, membership was down 33 persons for the year, to 6654 members and adherents.



The "open" markers on the graph above are to be read against the left-hand axis, and the "closed" ones against the right-hand axis.

Bible Studies continue to be a strong feature of our congregational life.

Year 2013 Tallies - Membership

	A	B					C					D		E	F	
Presbytery	Start of Year		Membership Gains				Total Gains	Membership Losses				Total Losses	A+B+C -D	End of Year		E+F
	Communicant s as at 1st Jan.	Adherents as at 1st Jan.	Profession of Faith	Txf from other PCA	Txf from other Denom.	by Resolution of Session		by Death	Resolution of Session	Transfer to PCA	Transfer to other			Communicant s as at 31st Dec.	Adherents as at 31st Dec.	
Ballarat	348	52	4	0	0	6	10	14	6	5	0	25	385	339	46	385
Benalla	410	110	4	4	0	0	8	14	0	6	6	30	498	402	106	508
Flinders	636	108	16	9	0	8	33	7	26	9	13	55	722	641	81	722
Geelong	315	60	8	10	1	1	20	12	14	2	15	43	352	295	57	352
Gippsland	325	75	33	7	1	6	47	11	17	10	2	40	407	340	67	407
Kilnoorat	537	94	15	2	0	1	18	21	6	3	1	31	618	525	92	617
Maroondah	348	80	3	14	0	22	39	7	15	4	1	27	440	354	80	434
Melb. East	986	178	16	1	3	12	32	11	8	5	15	39	1157	982	175	1157
Melb. North	520	326	41	13	5	5	64	13	2	27	16	60	850	499	351	850
Melb. West	805	74	79	24	1	21	125	13	24	12	15	64	940	866	74	940
Nth Wst Vic	266	34	18	5	5	3	31	5	23	8	13	49	282	250	32	282
Totals 2013	5496	1191	237	89	16	85	427	128	141	91	97	463	6651	5493	1161	6654
City	3295	766	155	61	9	68	293	51	75	57	60	245	4109	3342	761	4103
Country	2201	425	82	28	7	17	134	77	66	34	37	218	2542	2151	400	2551

Year 2013 Tallies - Attendance etc

	G			H		K	L	M	N	O	P										
Presbytery	Average Morning Attendance	Av. Other (weekday, afternoon etc)	Av. Evening Attendance	Extra at Other and Evening	G+H	Estimated Age Group of Tot. Av. Indiv. Attendance						K+L+M+N+O+P	OFFICE BEARERS				CAMPS HELD		SACRAMENTS		
						0-11	12-17	18-30	31-45	46-65	66+		ELDERS	Elected Board Members	Lay Preachers	Pastoral Carers Deacons etc.	Camps Held	Attendance	Infants Baptised	Adults Baptised	Av. Attendance at Communion
Ballarat	308	0	18	5	313	33	11	22	39	86	122	313	32	79	14	5	2	5	3	0	284
Benalla	357	31	53	23	380	21	21	34	40	74	190	380	46	66	18	11	0	0	3	3	283
Flinders	717	5	124	28	745	116	85	87	100	120	237	745	53	93	11	12	1	9	3	3	585
Geelong	328	20	56	19	347	45	21	35	37	70	139	347	25	63	14	0	0	0	2	1	273
Gippsland	362	26	55	21	383	50	36	57	57	69	114	383	31	49	11	4	2	154	1	7	302
Kilnoorat	441	10	101	76	517	68	47	38	52	103	209	517	38	78	17	9	0	0	6	4	440
Maroondah	488	0	100	15	503	90	25	80	122	108	78	503	28	38	6	12	1	60	6	3	423
Melb. East	1250	80	250	102	1352	254	131	265	219	260	223	1352	77	81	19	22	2	165	6	1	966
Melb. North	815	4	128	74	889	184	70	175	173	167	120	889	47	64	12	15	2	179	14	24	513
Melb. West	843	92	86	67	910	69	46	130	287	211	167	910	66	75	13	46	2	90	20	33	714
Nth Wst Vic	227	0	58	58	285	36	23	50	35	45	96	285	17	43	14	0	0	0	3	1	236
Totals 2013	6136	268	1029	488	6624	966	516	973	1161	1313	1695	6624	460	729	149	136	12	662	67	80	5019
City	4113	181	688	286	4399	713	357	737	901	866	825	4399	271	351	61	107	8	503	49	64	3201
Country	2023	87	341	202	2225	253	159	236	260	447	870	2225	189	378	88	29	4	159	18	16	1818

Year 2013 Tallies - Children's Work

	Playgroups (Age 0-4)			Children's Clubs (Primary Sch. Age 5-11)			Youth Groups (High Sch. Age 12-18)			Young Adults (Age 19- 30)			Cradle Roll &/or Creche	Enrolment in Sunday School										C.R.E.	
Presbytery	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders		Kinder	Prep - grade 3	Grades 4, 5, 6	Grades 7, 8, 9	Grades 10, 11, 12	Adults	Total Enrolment	Average Attendance	No. of Teachers	No. of Classes	No. of Teachers	
Ballarat	2	20	6	1	10	4	2	6	3	1	12	3	0	3	6	6	8	4	0	27	16	9	12	6	
Benalla	0	0	0	1	43	12	4	26	8	0	0	0	0	0	8	13	13	1	0	35	20	6	7	4	
Flinders	3	32	10	2	26	10	9	86	35	4	60	9	28	28	64	63	71	16	2	244	152	34	15	12	
Geelong	4	47	9	6	65	14	2	24	5	0	0	0	11	2	8	11	1	0	0	22	13	8	14	11	
Gippsland	3	68	22	4	131	49	2	56	12	1	16	2	19	6	21	25	2	0	0	54	26	7	35	11	
Kilnoorat	2	28	17	0	0	0	5	70	11	1	10	2	12	21	17	9	7	2	0	56	42	10	15	10	
Maroondah	3	55	8	1	85	12	1	30	5	4	45	7	6	16	31	31	1	0	0	79	67	31	5	5	
Melb. East	4	39	9	5	36	10	5	99	29	2	28	3	25	27	49	57	25	32	21	206	151	43	30	13	
Melb. North	4	45	3	4	69	13	6	86	19	0	0	0	42	60	117	94	42	22	0	335	113	47	14	10	
Melb. West	3	29	7	0	0	0	2	13	4	1	6	3	36	11	27	33	21	12	9	113	69	24	12	21	
Nth Wst Vic	1	14	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6	2	9	10	1	0	0	22	12	10	0	0	
Totals 2013	29	377	95	24	465	124	38	496	131	14	177	29	185	176	357	352	192	89	32	1193	681	229	159	103	
City	17	200	37	12	216	45	23	314	92	11	139	22	137	142	288	278	160	82	32	977	552	179	76	61	
Country	12	177	58	12	249	79	15	182	39	3	38	7	48	34	69	74	32	7	0	216	129	50	83	42	

Year 2013 Tallies -

Small Groups

	PWMU		Guild		Ladies Bible Study		Christianity Explained		Mixed Bible Study		Men's Bible Study		Other Groups			Prayer Groups		Communicant Classes		Teacher Training		Special Outreach Occasions	
Presbytery	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	Attend-ance	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Leaders	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Groups	No. of Members	No. of Times	Total No. Attending or Contacted
Ballarat	4	22	4	34	3	27	1	16	6	39	0	0	5	49	3	14	39	0	0	0	0	21	661
Benalla	2	20	10	84	7	50	0	0	14	106	1	8	1	9	0	9	51	3	7	1	8	3	132
Flinders	5	41	7	46	6	38	1	7	24	204	2	21	11	136	17	12	91	2	13	1	4	37	3225
Geelong	3	25	6	49	11	41	0	0	11	97	6	21	5	85	5	3	56	0	0	2	31	12	604
Gippsland	2	17	1	4	4	33	1	12	14	148	0	0	6	164	0	6	36	1	16	0	0	9	1251
Kilnoorat	6	49	6	55	10	62	1	6	14	83	1	10	3	42	3	4	26	2	11	0	0	6	628
Maroondah	0	0	0	0	5	47	0	0	24	78	1	5	6	145	11	4	30	0	0	1	8	9	806
Melb. East	3	30	1	6	11	69	0	0	30	290	2	15	6	185	12	15	113	2	8	2	8	17	600
Melb. North	2	28	1	6	8	56	17	60	32	363	3	22	0	0	0	8	42	0	0	2	17	2	175
Melb. West	2	32	2	10	5	27	4	18	15	172	2	10	8	110	12	14	96	6	26	0	0	103	2653
Nth Wst Vic	4	28	2	18	2	14	0	0	7	67	1	15	2	27	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	155
Totals 2013	33	292	40	312	72	464	25	119	191	1647	19	127	53	952	65	89	580	16	81	9	76	223	10890
City	12	131	11	68	35	237	22	85	125	1107	10	73	31	576	52	53	372	10	47	6	37	168	7459
Country	21	161	29	244	37	227	3	34	66	540	9	54	22	318	13	36	208	6	34	3	39	55	3431

G D Lawry
CONVENER

Ministry Development Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Common Fund Interest	150,266
Scots Church Property Trust	407,734
Sundry Income	1,515
Total Income	559,514

Expenditure:

Grants & Subsidies to Congregations	533,742
Capital Grants	336,962
Property Grants - Ararat, Bairnsdale	548,000
Home Missions Officer	113,381
Office	76,747
District Interim Moderator	20,318
Conferences	4,162
Committee	4,097
Total Expenditure	1,637,408

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

(1,077,893)

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	2,291,188
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	(1,077,893)
Add Back Depreciation	7,222
Deposits Paid	(1,000)
Increase (Decrease) in Current Liabilities	2,138
Decrease (Increase) in Fixed Assets	548,000
Balance 30/6/14	1,769,655

Specific Trust Accounts

Statement of Income & Expenditure	Church Extension Vic	Church Extension Other States	Evangelism	Beneficiary	Total
Income:					
Common Fund Interest	43,659	832	153,313	52,146	249,950
Total Income	43,659	832	153,313	52,146	249,950
Expenditure:					
Grants	-	1,083	46,659	4,513	52,255
Home Missionaries Expenses				60,985	60,985
Total Expenditure	0	1,083	46,659	65,499	113,241
Surplus on Specific Trusts	43,659	(251)	106,654	(13,352)	136,709
Movements in Funds					
Balance 1/7/13	320,944	251	1,198,201	326,259	1,845,656
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	43,659	(251)	106,654	(13,352)	136,709
Balance 30/6/14	364,604	0	1,304,855	312,906	1,982,365
Perpetual Funds					
Balance 30/6/14	26,913	6,913	39,992	125,000	198,818

MODERATOR'S COMMITTEE (Min. 28)

The Assembly wishes to thank the Rt Rev David Palmer for presiding over the General Assembly (2013). In doing so he ably fulfilled the duties of moderator for a second time. Again he was supportively accompanied by his wife Chris.

David Palmer visited the Presbyteries of Benalla, Gippsland and Maroondah along with Assembly committees and schools.

As a result of the experiences of past moderators, a review of the program of moderatorial visitation to presbyteries has been undertaken with a view to a more equitable arrangement. It was felt it was time to address this, especially given the addition of overseas missionary visits to the moderator's duties.

The traditional method by which the moderator visits the parishes of the PCV has been to do so by simply designating a number of presbyteries to visit. However there is a problem of unequal distribution of presbytery visits in the 5 year cycle of 11 presbyteries. For example, the combination of Flinders and Melbourne East which involves 29 parishes to visit and also Benalla, Gippsland and Maroondah which involves 25 parishes but has more multi site parishes and long distances to travel with at least six overnight stays. Moderators find Benalla, Gippsland and Maroondah very testing. At the other end of the scale in the 5 year cycle of visits are the two Presbyteries of Geelong and Kilnoorat which have only 13 parishes.

Approximate Presbytery Visitation Model

The aim of this proposal is to make all of this more manageable for incoming moderators by a) reducing the number of visits per annum by adopting a 6 year cycle as opposed to 5, b) equalising visits across the 6 year cycle and c) sharing the long distance country travel.

Taking information directly from the current 'KEY' we find that there are 61 city parishes and 44 country. With a 6 year cycle we then have to make 18 (approx) visits per year. That is, 18 Sundays that a moderator is out of his own parish. To share out the distance travelled we want to ensure that there is a country component to the visiting each year. This would mean 11 (approx) city visits and 7 (approx) country visits per moderator per year.

In order to make this work we 'move' a couple of country parishes 'out' of their presbyteries (helping to share out distance travelled) and divide two of our larger city Presbyteries, Flinders and Melbourne East. This can be easily done so that the divisions still represent continuous areas of the city. (ie we join Flinders B, which is the north part of Flinders, to Melbourne East A, which is the southern part of Melbourne East). The cycle of visitation is then as follows:

COUNTRY PRESBYTERIES	NO.	CITY PRESBYTERIES	NO.	TOTAL
Kilnoorat	= 7	Flinders B (3) Melb East A (6)	= 9	16
Geelong <i>plus</i> Kaniva-Nhil	= 7	Flinders A (11)	= 11	18
Ballarat (9) <i>minus</i> Kaniva-Nhil	= 8	Melbourne Nth (11)	= 11	19
North West Vic (6) <i>plus</i> Broadford	= 7	Melbourne East B (9)	= 9	16
Benalla (9) <i>minus</i> Broadford	= 8	Maroondah (9)	= 9	17
Gippsland	= 7	Melbourne West (12)	= 12	19
TOTAL	44	TOTAL	61	105

Flinders A	<i>Aspendale, Cheltenham, Cranbourne, Cardinia/Koo-Wee-Rup, Dandenong, Dromana/Mornington, Frankston, Mordialloc, South East Samoan, Somerville, Sorrento/Rye.</i>
Flinders B	<i>Brighton, Clayton, Clarinda.</i>
Melbourne East A	<i>Ashburton, Burwood, Caulfield/Elwood, Gardenvale East, Malvern, St Kilda/Balaclava.</i>
Melbourne East B	<i>Arabic (South Yarra), Auburn, Camberwell, Canterbury, Hawthorn, Korean (Balwyn), South Yarra, Surrey Hills, Deaf Presbyterian (Surrey Hills).</i>

Advantages

1. The division into six portions immediately reduces the overall load.
2. Any prospective moderator has a clear idea of the time/travel commitment for PCV visiting without knowing what part of the cycle we're at and it is virtually the same for all.
3. This is flexible in that each country and city portion is roughly the same size and can easily be switched so that a moderator does not have to 'visit' his own presbytery. Hence we would approve this as a 'general model' to allow such flexibility as well as allowing for the addition of extra parishes in Flinders and Melbourne East, since they are specifically listed.

As the present moderator is a minister of a parish, it becomes necessary to formalise a past practice that has applied, that is, reimbursing parishes for pulpit supply for absences incurred in the fulfilment of moderatorial duties.

The Moderator will elaborate on his mission trip in his moderatorial report and we thank him and Chris for undertaking these visits.

The work of the Moderators Committee is largely administrative, the clerk having an increasingly essential role. So much so that there is little that does not devolve to the clerk. Therefore the committee believes that it is now rather redundant, hence the appropriate deliverance below.

Graeme Weber
CONVENER

PAST MODERATOR'S REPORT (Min. 27)

As I come to the end of my second year as moderator I would like to record what a privilege it is to serve the church as moderator and to acknowledge the courtesy and goodwill that is always extended to the moderator, whether in visiting parishes and home mission stations, in the interaction with church related schools and other outside bodies. My wife Chris has joined me on all Sunday visits and attendance at number of other functions, and has done so with pleasure.

I would also like to record appreciation for the opportunity to work closely with our Assembly Clerk, particularly when certain difficult situations have arisen. It has been a good experience to work closely with someone who differs in temperament and gifting to form a strong, effective and mutually appreciative working relationship. Likewise I must record my appreciation to my chaplains, personal friends from Flinders Presbytery, Ken and David Brown.

Moderator Visits to Presbyteries

At the time of writing this report I'm still working my way through the required number of parish and home mission station visits. Once again, the abiding impression is that in all our congregations we have good people who know they belong to God's family, love our Lord Jesus and therefore are serious Christians. A particular blessing is getting to know and appreciate ministerial families. In a number of instances with country congregations we stayed the Saturday night in the manse or else took the manse family out for tea should we stay overnight in a motel.

I do need to raise an issue regarding the uneven distribution of presbyteries for moderatorial visits for what is a five yearly cycle covering all eleven Victorian presbyteries.

There is a problem in the grouping of presbyteries across the five yearly cycle. The current combination of Flinders and Melbourne East involves 29 parishes to visit whilst Benalla, Gippsland and Maroondah involves 25 parishes but has more multi-site parishes and long distances to travel with at least 6 overnight stays. This year I have found Benalla, Gippsland and Maroondah very testing. At the other end of the scale the grouping of Geelong and Kilnoorat has just 13 parishes to be visited.

I think one of the misconceptions about our church that needs correcting is that contrary to what you might expect when visiting a congregation made up almost entirely of persons over 65 years, is that in fact there are as many children and young people in the church as the older and elderly. I used the Assembly presbytery statistics (with the usual caveats as to accuracy) to show on the basis of *attendance* that we have as many – 80 persons - for each year of age between ages 0 to 17 years as we have for those over 46 years, whilst the number is 60 persons for the age group 18 to 45 years. Not only that, but the average age across the denomination has actually *fallen by 3 years* between 1995 and 2011 – 49 years down to 46 years. Let me repeat: these are averages across the denomination, not individual congregational numbers!

Mission Trip

In March Chris and I went visiting APWM missionaries: to Kathmandu to spend time with Daniel and Courtney Denness and then two weeks with John and Lyn Ellis at Presbyterian Theological Seminary (PTS), Dehra Dun.

Daniel, Courtney and their children, Esther, Joshua and Rachel are very much in the thick of things in their location, language study, a new baby, Keziah born several weeks after we left, hands-on involvement in a children's home and a crucial role for Daniel in an indigenous ministry involved in village church planting and community development. They have secured excellent accommodation at a very reasonable rent. Daniel seems such a natural for mission work; it was a privilege for us to live with the family and to observe them at work and play, but also with time for meeting local Christians and some sightseeing for us as well.

We should be prayerful concerning this family, not least their safety.

We flew next to Delhi to be met by John and Lyn Ellis and then encountered a fairly hair raising 7 hour trip by car to Dehra Dun.

India is colourful, vibrant, people everywhere and the roads something else again with pedestrians, bicycles, carts pulled by an assortment of men, donkeys, horses and bullocks; scooters with up to four somehow squeezed on; motor bikes; 'autos' and 'vikrams' (tricycle taxis); cars in various shapes and sizes; lorries, usually over loaded and all vying for advantage on roads generally of poor construction and generally lacking footpaths.

We became acclimatised to hard beds and bucket showers, meeting many people and of course students. Up to 75% of the 86 students at PTS (2/3 men, 1/3 women) come from the northwest of India and some neighbouring countries.

Over the course of the three weeks that we were away, I was privileged to preach six times, took a couple of ethics classes and led some bible studies and devotions; in all 16 specific ministry opportunities. We visited a Christian School, visited several homes, David attended an all day presbytery meeting. Dr Chacko, PTS Principal, expressed great interest in continuing to have PTS College staff pursue MTh and ThD studies at our College and also requested sponsorship for poor students to undertake their BTh studies at PTS. These scholarships are ca \$1,500 - \$2,000 pa for study extending over three years. I'm pleased to say that three such scholarships are now being provided by PCV people.

John and Lyn Ellis's work is greatly appreciated: John for his lecturing, pastoral care and mentoring of the soon to be ordained Pastor Sumit, pastor of Good Shepherd, the English language congregation at PTS. Lyn is like a mother to the students and it is nothing, as we witnessed, for 4 or more students, often accompanied by a friend, to come knocking on the door each day, usually concerning some medical issue.

Whether, in the final analysis, our visit was helpful is really for those visited to say. They certainly appeared appreciative. I remember the surprise expressed at Ukarumpa last year by more than one individual that the sending church cared enough for its missionaries to send its moderator on a visit of encouragement.

Other Moderatorial Activities

I was delighted to be asked to preach at the opening of the splendid new church building at Coolaroo for the Samoan congregation and then at the opening of the new Presbyterian Church in Daylesford. The difference between these two congregations says a lot about the diversity across the PCV. The congregation at Coolaroo with the Rev Simalu Cowley as its pastor is large and settled, and almost entirely Samoan, and of course we have a number of other congregations that worship in the mother tongue of recent arrivals to Australia. The Daylesford situation is entirely different. A beautifully appointed new building for a small congregation and a ministry being undertaken by the Rev Mark Crabb and his wife Linda that has a major focus on people with new age background. The Ministry Development Committee is to be applauded for supporting such a ministry and should be encouraged to continue to do so. It would be good for all commissioners and their wives (and families) to plan a holiday or weekend visit to Daylesford so as to encourage Mark and Linda, to see something of their ministry, to be in prayer support of their ministry.

Twenty years ago Belgrave Heights Christian School was close to failure, but then the tide turned through a combination of factors under God: the shared leadership of a new Principal, Mr Leigh Murray and the School Council Chairman, the Rev Warwick Davidson, plus some timely assistance from Hillcrest Christian School together with the persistent advocacy of both Mr Davidson and Elder Dirk Jackson over a number of years at the General Assembly culminating in the eventual support of the General Assembly for the allocation to the School of a significantly large portion of the old Belgrave Heights Campsite. As of 2014, the school has a staff of 80 and 620 students.

The present Principal, Mr Andy Callow, following my expressed interest in visiting the school, invited me to attend the official opening of the new Hospitality Training Centre and VCE Centre at the School. The official opening duties were conducted by Jason Wood MP, the Federal Parliament Member for La Trobe. The students cooked a splendid meal using the new facilities. It was clear to me the high regard in which the School and its Principal is held in the Hills district, not least of all from what Mr Wood had to say concerning the school and its reputation.

I have visits to St Andrew's Christian College and The Kings College planned for late July and September respectively and have been asked 'to represent the Presbyterian Community' at the National Memorial Service for Victims of Flight MH17 on Thursday, 7th August at St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne.

During the course of the year I became involved in assisting several committees, principally the Church Planting Committee and the Maintenance of Ministry Committee with aspects of their respective work. In April I succeeded Neil Chambers as convener of the Theological Education Committee. The TEC is facing some considerable challenges to do with College property, staffing levels and funding issues, matters addressed in the committee's report to this year's Assembly.

During the course of the year I became involved in some difficult pastoral issues, despite knowing that I have no special aptitude for such matters.

Some Moderatorial Reflections

In my report last year I wrote in respect of:

- What it means to be a Reformed Church - as distinct from an Evangelical Church
- *Enriching worship according to our Reformed heritage* – a booklet made available last year to all commissioners
- The structural challenges facing the Presbyterian Church of Victoria requiring attention

Moderators of course can write what they like and *no one is obliged to take any notice*. This of course allows moderators a certain licence.

Given that this is so, I am encouraged to reflect further on worship that is reformed as against generic evangelical and then open up on two additional topics: young earth creationism vis a vis old earth creationism and the vital subject of protecting our children and young people living in what has now become a morally corrosive and degrading society in Australia.

Worship that is Reformed, not simply Generic Evangelical

I was greatly cheered recently to discover one of our Presbyteries declined to recommend to the GAA Reception of Ministers Committee a minister from another denomination on the basis that the person involved, a young evangelical of otherwise impeccable credentials, was not yet sufficiently across 'what a Confessional Presbyterian church is, with its strict eldership based polity and particular worship distinctives'.

I won't repeat what I have already written in *Enriching worship according to our Reformed heritage* other than to make the following specific pleas:

- that we allow our congregations to pray the Lord's Prayer as part of regular Sunday worship
- that when we Ministers/Pastors lead the congregation in confession having heard some short reading of the law, we actually stand before our congregations eyeball to eyeball to declare with a suitable Scripture the assurance of pardon. I cannot understand why we don't do it. The Reformers did it, so why can't we?
- that the sacraments of baptism and Lord's Supper together with the preaching of the Word lie at the centre of the Christian life and worship without in any way supplanting the Word preached.
- that the Lord's Supper is an opportunity for the congregation to give expression to their profession of faith in the words of either the Apostles Creed or the Nicene Creed.
- and finally, that we remember that what we do on Sunday in worship is to meet with the triune God and further that the second person of the Trinity is usually to be referred to in the fashion of the Epistles as 'Lord', 'the Lord', 'the Lord Jesus', 'Christ', 'Jesus Christ' and so on with 'Jesus' being normally restricted to those occasions where his humanity is to the fore. (It is to be feared that those who restrict themselves to naming him only ever as 'Jesus' are on their way to practical Unitarianism, an unfortunate journey we know that perhaps a majority of Puritans or at least their children took in the eighteenth century – God forbid.

Positively, I am delighted to recommend for those willing to consider further the claims of worship that is Reformed, Terry Johnson's recently published *Worshipping with Calvin*. Johnson is Senior Pastor of a large USA Presbyterian congregation. The book has a wealth of information both historical and exegetical that I am confident would enrich our ministers' preparation for worship as much as its input to the design of worship services would enhance our congregations' experience of worship that is both God honouring and satisfying to their own life as Christian believers. Terry Johnson has promised a follow up volume, *Serving with Calvin* saying, "(p)ractical guidelines lie ahead for those who wish to implement the nuts and bolts of Reformed ministry and worship". Two other excellent reads are *Calvin's Doctrine of the Word and Sacraments* by Ronald S Wallace (currently out of print but second hand copies can be purchased through bookfinder.com) and *Given for You - Reclaiming Calvin's Doctrine of the Lord's Supper*, a fascinating historical survey by Keith A Mathison with a foreword by RC Sproul.

As I am writing this I notice Carl Trueman, whose ministry many of us have appreciated, has an article up on *First Things*, "A Church for Exiles: Why Reformed Christianity provides the Best Basis for Faith Today".

The Reformed Church affirms the great truths that were defined in the early Church, to which she adds the Protestant doctrine of salvation by faith alone. She cultivates a practical simplicity: Church life centres on the preaching of the Word, the administration of the sacraments, prayer, and corporate praise. We do not draw our strength primarily from an institution, but instead from a simple, practical pedagogy of worship: the Bible, expounded week by week in the proclamation of the Word and taught from generation to generation by way of catechisms and devotions around the family dinner table.

Reformed worship has always involved more than preaching, even though the sermon is central. Its liturgical form flows directly from our commitment to the Word and to the catholic foundations of our faith. The Gospel according to the Reformed faith is straightforward: We are dead in sin and need to be united to Christ, the God-man, who lived and died and rose again for us and for our salvation. United with him, we look beyond the ephemera of this world to the eternity beyond.

Reformed worship places the Word at the centre because the declaration of the truth of the Gospel is central. Ideally, this truth shapes the liturgical actions of the Reformed community. For example, in the church service, the minister reads the Decalogue and brings words of judgment down on God's people, reminding them of their death in Adam. He leads them in a corporate confession of sin and then reads words from Scripture, pointing toward the promise in Christ of comfort, forgiveness, and the final resurrection to come. Fall, death, forgiveness, resurrection: The basic elements of the Christian message find concise and precise expression in Reformed liturgical practice.

The congregation responds with a hymn of praise to God for his goodness. Here, the beauty and the distinctiveness of the Reformed faith become evident. The congregation, reminded of who they are—sinners who stand before God condemned for their unrighteousness and uncleanness—receive the promise in Christ that, grasped by faith, seals forgiveness upon their hearts and moves them to praise and thanksgiving.

This singular focus—the drama of sin and redemption inwardly known—is a great boon in times of exile. To retain an identity in the face of a hostile culture, one must belong to a vibrant community of people who know who they are. This is the New Testament pattern of Christianity. When we hear, in clear and unequivocal words, who we are declared to us in the sermon each week and when we participate in liturgical action embodying that identity, we are well prepared for the hostile liturgies and gospels of the world we encounter from Monday to Saturday.

You can read the whole thing here: <http://www.firstthings.com/article/2014/08/a-church-for-exiles>.

I know there has been a certain amount of controversy in relation to the role of Geneva Push in our Church Plants. Personally I think we can benefit from Geneva Push in that context, provided we also understand that we are to provide a full diet of Reformed doctrine with a necessary high view of the Sacraments as well as the centrality of the Word preached. The beauty of the sacraments is that they reinforce the appeal and power of the spoken Word by making the Word more visible and concrete to the senses.

The danger with Geneva Push is that we may fall into a form of worship (aka ‘meeting together’) that may not equate with that deep sense of meeting with a awesome holy triune God for adoration, confession and cleansing, renewal and fresh impetus for godly living in the coming week.

Young earth Creationism vis a vis Old earth Creationism

Everywhere I have been I have talked up the unity that exists across the Victorian Church in Ministers being on the same page in being biblically and confessionally bound.

However, quietly bubbling, generally below the surface, is the issue of young earth creationism vis a vis old earth creationism.

Anyone who read my October 2011 Australian Presbyterian article *Ancient of Days*, knows that I classify myself as an *undogmatic* old earth creationist willing to allow some space for evolution, at least at the micro level. During my moderatorial year I have had a number of people who have gone out of their way to thank me for that article whilst I received a fair deal of critical comment not long after the article’s publication by young earth creationists. I found somewhat unnerving to be accosted by someone, ‘don’t you believe the Bible?’. I was once taken very severely to task by an *Answers in Genesis* spokesperson.

It has been pointed out to me that the WCF affirms the triune God making the universe out of nothing ‘in the space of six days’ Well, I think in 1646 I would have agreed with that statement, but not today when I consider the light thrown on the subject by God’s creation itself, nor do I agree on exegetical grounds that the six days of creation must be read as six twenty four hour days. Not to be forgotten also is the fact that we read the WCF in the light of the Declaratory Statement.

For the record I gladly and whole heartedly affirm the inerrancy and sufficiency of the Bible. I believe and preach historical Adam and Eve, and no, I can’t tie up all the loose ends, but I can live with that.

I do understand and appreciate the strength, attraction and sincerity of the young earth position to those adhering to this position. For my part, last year at the suggestion of a ministerial colleague, a young earth creationist, I read with interest, though did not find convincing, Andrew S Kulikovsky's *Creation, Fall Restoration*.

Part of my reason for writing as I have done is that local churches are inviting groups such as *Answers in Genesis* to run workshops over a weekend. What does an old earth creationist do in these circumstances? Do they attend and keep silent? Do they speak up on the meaning of 'day' and cause disagreement? Do they stay away? How do we maintain unity in this situation? On one occasion I stayed away; on another, when I attempted to speak, someone shook their head at me and I remained silent. These are questions that should receive some consideration.

A recent book which largely aligns with my own understanding is *Seven Days that Divide the World* by John Lennox and for theological argument, Henri Blocher's *In the Beginning*.

The point I want to make in raising this controversial subject is that different understandings on the age of the earth will remain but that amongst Bible believing, confessional, godly Christians there needs to be charitable understanding of one another without having to compromise principled convictions.

Protecting our Children and Young People

In *Shall the Religious Inherit the Earth*, University professor and declared atheist, Eric Kaufmann, basically answers the question he poses in the affirmative because of the significantly higher birth rates for the religious, whether Christian, Muslim or Jew compared to the non religious. I'm not so sure. Many children with religious parents grow up to be non religious, sadly all too true of believing, faithful Christian parents, such as those found in our own church.

We need to understand and I think this is mostly the case that the broader Australian culture is extremely toxic. On just about any measure you choose – drug use, illegitimacy, divorce, child abuse, crime rates, there has been upwards of a tenfold increase in the per capita statistics since the beginning of the 1960s. There are no signs that these trends will reverse in the near future. Every congregation, every family needs to be vigilant. Our young people do not live in isolation of the broader Australian culture. Same sex marriage is around the corner and it's not simply that that will be so, but that full approval of all aspects of same sex relationships will not just be required but enforced in many ways that we will find intrusive and coercive, even with the potential for unwelcome court appearances.

In January I spoke at a workshop at PYV Summer Camp on abortion and homosexuality, same sex marriage specifically. I say talked – yes, talked 30 mins and then took 75 mins of questions. That workshop was oversubscribed and it wasn't because the moderator was speaking. Ministers, youth leaders, parents, elders all need to speak to, listen to and respond to our young people on all these issues, because they all involve real choices for them. My more developed arguments with specific recommendations are found in the booklet, *Living Godly in a Morally Decadent World*.

Please forgive me if I seem to be preaching and too free with my opinions. As I wrote earlier moderators can write what they like and *no one is obliged to take any notice*.

David J Palmer

PRESBYTERIAN LADIES' COLLEGE (Min. 34)

Chairman's Report to Council: May 2014

Presbyterian Ladies College continues its heritage as one of Australia's top independent schools for girls. Providing opportunity through outstanding academic excellence, broad co-curricular programs, innovative thinking, and developing leadership skills with a focus on service of others. Everything we do is within a clear Christian foundation promoting Christian values and faith.

Principal and Staff

Our Principal, Mrs Elaine Collin, continues to provide passionate, visionary and professional leadership in every aspect of College life. She gives vision and delivery to such broad and diverse areas of College life as senior staff positions, curriculum and other aspects of the academic program, and in the physical infrastructure of the campus. Mrs Collin has provided outstanding leadership across all departments and aspects of the life of the College. Enrolments are high, our financial situation is sound, and academic outcomes continue to be amongst the best in the country. Mrs Collin is widely respected as a leading Australian educator and in 2013 was Chair of the Association of International Baccalaureate Diploma World Schools Victoria and Tasmania. She has our confident and prayerful support as she carries out her critical role. We are also thankful for the supporting leadership provided by the College Deputy Principals Ms Keiron Jones and Mr Tim Argall. Mrs Cheryl Penberthy as Head of Junior School has demonstrated dedicated, enthusiastic and talented leadership. We are also grateful to the leadership of Mr John Law in his ongoing role as Deputy Head in support of Mrs Penberthy. At the beginning of 2013 we welcomed Mr Hamish Blair as the new Business Manager. He possesses extensive corporate experience and engages in an active Christian life. He has diligently and capably applied himself to the role. At every level, working under this leadership team, we are blessed with staff, both teaching and support, who invest outstanding professional and personal qualities in the education, nurture and development of the students' academic abilities and character, through diligent delivery of the formal curriculum plus a wide range of extra-curricular activities. Thus we believe they are unfailing in their commitment to fulfil the College's mission.

Students

The students of the College continue to impress us with all they achieve in every field. Music, drama and sports performances are always very impressive, with many students winning awards or competitions at state and national level. The girls' Christian groups in the Junior School, the Senior School and the Boarding House have continued to grow and develop. In 2013 our main student Christian group in the Senior School was rebadged as the Christian Union and have been dedicated a new classroom for their use and specially designed it as the Christian Studies classroom. The girls of graduating year 2013 again achieved extraordinary results with the 2013 VCE and IB results being among the very best in Australia. Over a quarter of the girls achieved an ATAR of 98 or above, half the girls achieved an ATAR score of 95.5 or above placing them in the top 5% of all Australian students, and 73% achieved an ATAR of 90 or above. Reflective of this high achievement all 164 girls of the Class of 2013 received a first round tertiary offer of their choice. The fruit of their hard work and talent, combined with the teaching quality and culture of PLC. We congratulate the 'Class of 2013' on their outstanding results in VCE and IB exams and wish them

well as they embark on this new stage in their life, whether working, studying or new endeavours.

Financial

The necessary audited financial statements have been submitted to the Council, through its Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee, and will be attached to this report when submitted to the Presbyterian Church. The provision for doubtful debts is considered to be adequate and the audit report is unqualified.

We record here our gratitude to Mr Hamish Blair, Business Manager, and the staff working with him to manage the business, financial and practical affairs of the College. They work with grace and efficiency, and we note that the operating activities for the year returned a surplus which is used to fund the capital works program.

Property Development

During 2013, a new Year 7 area was completed. The area is expansive with six new state of the art home rooms, an open staged area, and breakout rooms suitable for classes, gatherings, and concerts. Together with a beautifully landscaped courtyard and gardens. The major upgrades to the science laboratories were substantially complete at the end of 2013.

Council

The College Council consists of 17 volunteers, five of whom are appointed directly by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, five are nominated by a selection committee that represents the Old Collegians and the Parents' Association, and seven are nominated to the Church by the Council itself. They set the vision, principles, values and priorities that govern the school, in continuity with the Christian and academic aims that are enshrined in the school's constitution. All appointments are for one year, although there is no restriction on being re-nominated. The Council operates several sub-committees: the Executive and Finance Committee is chaired by the Council Chairman; the Property and Planning Committee is chaired by Mr Graeme Boyles; the Risk Management, Audit and Compliance Committee is chaired by Mrs Fiona Pearse, and Group B Selection Committee (Old Collegians and the Parents' Association) is chaired by Mrs Catherine O'Leary. The Council has an independently incorporated company to hold in trust accumulated scholarship funds. The membership of the Board of Directors of 'Charles Pearson Pty Ltd' consists of the members of our Executive and Finance Committee plus the Principal. It is chaired by Mrs Christine Hopper, who also serves as vice-chancellor of the College Council. Dr Andrew McDonald and Mrs Christine Hopper represent the College Council on the Board of the PLC Foundation, and Dr McDonald serves as its President. Mrs Janet Markham was appointed to Council in 2013 and we look forward to the contributions she will make in the coming years.

Conclusion

It is a biblical principle of stewardship that we are to protect, grow and advance what we have been given responsibility for, and by God's Grace this is what we will continue to do. I thank God for the many gifts and talents of the Council members, our gifted and passionate Principal and staff who educate and guide the girls at the highest possible levels. I thank God for the girls of the school and for their families.

It is a great joy to report Presbyterian Ladies College continues to provide excellence in education to girls from both local and overseas homes, maintains a culture of

encouragement and respect, and all within a framework of Christian values and ethos.

Russell Walley
CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION (Min. 103)

PWMU gives thanks to God for the privilege of being able to gather women of the church together with the common goal of supporting Victorian Presbyterian missionaries. We are always mindful of the rich heritage we have, and that we are part of and serve a church that holds mission work as a high priority. Indeed, PWMU has endeavoured in the past year to do all it can towards further promoting both missionaries and mission work.

As you know, there have been many changes to the list of missionaries that we support. It is sad to farewell people who have left missionary service, whether through retirement or for other reasons, but on the other hand there is rejoicing to see new people stepping up to the challenge of undertaking mission work. PWMU continues to bring news of missionaries to its members and others through the PWMU newsletter which is sent 10 times per annum, and at all of its meetings.

The year began with the Thanksgiving Rally, which in 2013 featured the students of St Andrews Christian College who had undertaken a mission trip to Vanuatu, and an AFES worker at RMIT.

In September 'Dayspring Day', the day of missionary based activities that PWMU runs annually for children, was held at Wycliffe, Kangaroo Ground. Mrs Cassie Hood organised a very good programme in which not only is the focus on missionaries, but also on Christian living and reading the Bible.

At the Annual service and AGM meeting held at Assembly last year, Rev Richard O'Brien preached then spoke about his visit to the London City Mission. Although not related specifically to our missionaries, this gave members an interesting perspective on another type of mission work.

At the March State meeting, Rhys and Rhondda Hall spoke about their work in South Sudan. This couple have been involved in mission work there for a long time, but kept us riveted as they talked about the work that has not remained static but is continually changing as it seeks to meet the needs that are seen in that country.

Members attending the June State meeting were blessed with the presence of Daniel and Courtney Denness accompanied by their children, including the new baby. This time it was a privilege to hear about a new sphere of mission work in a different country, as PWMU has not supported a missionary in Nepal before.

The Country Rally was held at Ballarat in May. It was pleasing to have nice weather and a good attendance. Graham and Sue Hammond spoke to us in the morning meeting which was led by ladies from the Branch at Ballarat South Presbyterian Church. It was good to get a better idea of the kind of work the Hammonds are involved in and how it can be undertaken from a distance, due to technology. PWMU has been much concerned about the low support level of this couple, so it was a blessing to be able to give them the proceeds of a very good offering and then follow it up with a grant from the State Council. In the afternoon meeting many matters were raised with particular emphasis on introducing new missionaries and re-acquainting members with the others, and on conducting a prayer time for all missionaries.

The State council of PWMU, as the governing body of the union, has this year seen some changes occur. Mrs Cassie Hood resigned as the organiser of Dayspring Day. Council did not want to see this vital part of its children's work cease, so sought a new organiser. We were fortunate to have Mrs Shona Archer volunteer to undertake this task, enabling PWMU to once again schedule Dayspring Day in the September school holidays.

Another need that arose was to revise our constitution. There have been many changes within PWMU in recent years and the current constitution, adopted in 2000, needs to be revised in the light of them. A committee has been formed to discuss the constitution and formulate changes that are needed. This is necessarily a lengthy process and may take another year before it can be presented to an AGM.

PWMU were forced to seek another outlet for its stamp sales, when the dealer in Bendigo that we were using closed his doors. This was found by the Treasurer, Mrs Gaye McKenzie. So trimmed stamps are still able to be passed on to PWMU to be sold and the proceeds go into the Sundry Funds distribution, which benefits APWM missionaries. Although in the larger scheme of things stamps sales do not contribute much financially, it is all profit.

PWMU are blessed in having faithful women who keep the financial needs of missionaries at heart and who give generously to support them. Receiving and sending on monies for mission support is a major service that PWMU can offer. This year \$46,339.45 was raised by branches and members and passed on to our missionaries. As well, State Council made its usual Trust funds distribution in July and Sundry funds distribution in October. There were five projects and personal needs of missionaries able to be supported in the Trust Funds distribution in July 2013, a total of \$9,300, while the missionaries solely supported by APWM benefited with \$15,000 in financial support in the Sundry Funds distribution, made in October 2013.

State council makes grants to exit students, for new babies born to missionaries, for missionaries coming home on home assignment and departure grants to new missionaries. As well, it makes grants when it becomes aware of needs that missionaries may have.

At the end of last year the PWMU bursary student, Mario Kasih, completed his studies and returned to Indonesia. It was a considerable privilege to provide support for such an enthusiastic and dedicated young man. PWMU has enough money to offer a bursary to another student and is in the process of finding someone suitable to support in this way. PWMU will only support a person who gives a guarantee of his intention to return to Christian work in his home location, so that the financial outlay made is ultimately benefiting the spread of the Gospel.

It is by the grace of God that PWMU is able to continue to support mission work and missionaries, to promote their prayer and financial needs in any way possible, and to influence the next generation to take an interest in mission work. May He be praised!

Esther Vayne
PRESIDENT

RECORDS COMMITTEE (Min. 111)

The minutes of the Presbyteries of Ballarat, Melbourne North, Flinders, Gippsland and Geelong have been examined.

Other records have been submitted to the Committee at the Assembly, but have not yet been examined.

In general the records are well kept and preserve a faithful record of decisions. Where minutes are recorded as “confirmed as amended” some notation indicating the amendment ought to exist, so that it is clear that the amendment has been effected. The committee continues to be concerned that minutes contain simple errors that suggest that presbytery members do not scrutinise draft minutes with any degree of diligence. Ministers of the Word who comprise 50% of our presbyteries ought to be competent in dealing with words and grammar.

Again, the Committee notes that page numbering should be continuous, not just within the meeting which, but within the year [at least], but preferable throughout the physical record book.

Where Presbytery sits in Committee of the Whole, the records and decisions of that Committee of the Whole are not Presbytery records. Where records are held in a record apart, these records are still part of the presbytery record, and should be presented. It is apparent from minutes presented for examination that records apart do exist, but none of these records have been submitted.

The matter of electronic record keeping is beginning to present practical problems. While it presents understandable perceived savings and efficiencies of distribution at Presbytery level, in some cases, all it really does is push costs down the line to individuals. There are another practical considerations which include:

- maintaining accessibility especially where software may change and hardware may change, or when computers fail.
- maintaining accessibility and continuity when presbytery personnel change.
- preserving security when computers or the cloud may be accessed by others.
- preserving integrity of approved minutes. Saving minute files as a standard word processor document is not sufficiently secure. A .pdf file is more secure, but can still be altered. The Committee therefore believes that there must be at least one physical copy maintained at all times, if for no other reason than that it is impossible to attest records, or to be sure that records submitted electronically are in fact the records.

Graham Nicholson
CONVENER

SCOTCH COLLEGE (Min. 35)

Managing the very strong demand for places at Scotch College remains a welcome challenge for the School. In 2013 there were 1452 boys enrolled in the Senior School, of whom 145 were boarders, and 430 boys in the Junior School. Driven by a desire to accommodate the 67 new boarders who constituted the highest number of new boys joining the Hill for over 15 years (39 in 2013 and 44 in 2012), 2014 enrolments have seen Senior School numbers rise to 1463, of whom 160 are boarders. For future years, demand for places at the main intake years for day school boys of Prep, Year 4, Year 7 and Year 9 remains very high. In total, seven indigenous boys are part of the Scotch community this year, and, with the exception of one day boy, all indigenous boys are part of the boarding community on the Hill. The diversity of boys attending the School is enhanced by our boarding school, and the growing number of exchange students who come to Scotch from around the world.

Although Scotch is a non-academically selective school, academic success remains a high priority for the school. Boys are challenged and supported to improve their outcomes in all intellectual pursuits, including those things societies like to measure. The School was encouraged by the excellent set of VCE results obtained by the class of 2013. The median ATAR score was 90.65 and three boys obtained the maximum possible ATAR of 99.95. 11.5% of the cohort obtained an ATAR of 99.00 or higher placing them in the top 1% of the population, and 52.2%, or just over one half, obtained an ATAR of over 90.00 or more, placing them in the top 10% of the population. There were 25 perfect study scores of 50 across 13 subjects. Five boys won VCE Premier's Study Awards and three boys had their work selected for presentation at the VCE Top Class Awards. Over 96% of the Year 12 boys were offered a tertiary place (the majority receiving their first preference) and a growing number of boys are taking up places in interstate or overseas universities.

Boys continue to excel in National competitions. This year, three Year 12 boys were selected to represent Australia in Science Olympiad competitions, while a Year 11 boy represented Australia for the fourth time in the Informatics Olympiad, and two Year 10 boys attended the Australian Mathematics Olympiad selection school.

Although the school is encouraged by the excellent academic performance of its boys, it remains committed to improving the outcomes for each boy in all he does and can be encouraged to take on. As such, a number of initiatives and strategies, all of which form part of the School's Improvement Plan, have been implemented over the course of the year. These strategies focus on improving feedback to boys; providing better formative assessment; differentiating teaching to meet the diversity of interests and aptitudes represented in every classroom; and, placing a greater emphasis on conversational learning.

A significant current project for the School is the building of a new Science Centre. Work on the *Sir Zelman Cowen Centre for Science* will commence at the end of this year with boys and staff bringing the building alive from the start of the 2017 academic year. This building, which is to be located at the western end of the school campus, is perhaps the most significant undertaking the School has committed to in the past 100 years. Not only will it provide a home for the Life Sciences, Physics, Chemistry and General Science, it will be built around spaces specifically designed to allow ongoing conversations of learning and individual reflection to flow, between and

amongst boys and staff and beyond the more formal class environment. In addition to the immediate impact on Scotch boys and staff, it is envisaged the *Sir Zelman Cowen Centre for Science* will deliver generations of scientifically minded young men ready to contribute to the future wellbeing and wealth of the nation.

The School's search for a successor to the Rev Graham Bradbeer, who retired at the end of 2013, reached a successful conclusion with the appointments of Rev David Assender (who has held the position of Assistant Chaplain since 2008) and Rev Douglas Campbell. Douglas was a minister of the Free Church of Scotland (Dunfermline), and was Chaplain of Masterton Primary School and a member of the chaplaincy team at Woodmill High School. He was the Moderator of the Presbytery of Edinburgh and Perth (Scotland) in 2011, and from 2000-2007, he and his family lived in King William's Town, South Africa, where Doug was Minister for the Knox District.

Rev Assender and Rev Campbell, together with the Rev Grant Watson, lead the boys in religious observance at the three assemblies held each week in the Memorial Hall, at the weekly Boarders' Chapel service and at Year Group and House Chapel services in the Littlejohn Chapel. A staff prayer group meets weekly, as does the Christian Student Fellowship group. The provision of Christian Education continues at all year levels of the School. The Year 9 Retreats (introduced in 2011) held at our Healesville site have become an integral part of our program. The annual Prayer Breakfast remains a significant occasion on our calendar bringing together members of the School Council, boys, staff, parents and Old Boys.

Although Graham has retired from the school, his recent appointment as OSCA Chaplain has ensured his wisdom and guidance have not been lost on the Scotch community. In addition to performing ceremonial duties at Old Boy functions, this new role will see Graham continue to offer support and counsel to those who have left Scotch to face life's challenges.

Trips, tours and exchanges continue to challenge boys to learn more about themselves and the world in which they live. This year has seen basketball players travel to the USA, swimmers take to the pools of New Zealand, footballers embrace the Tiwi Islands, skiers schuss the slopes of Whistler, scientists tread the steps of great European thinkers, sea kayakers confront Alaskan icebergs, cricketers adjust to the vagaries of an English summer, classical historians trace the origins of our societies from Troy to Ithaca, and boys build houses in Cambodia as part of the Global Village Habitat for Humanity Program. There have been language exchanges to France, Germany and Indonesia, and a study tour to Italy. Boys involved in the Indigenous Partnership Program traveled to Tiwi College, and boys of Year 11 had opportunity to apply for exchanges with school in India, the United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand and the United States of America.

The music program remains very strong with large numbers of boys involved in the many ensembles that perform at the entertaining and high calibre concerts that are held throughout the year in the wonderful James Forbes Academy. A measure of the strength and standard of music at Scotch is that nine boys received either an LMusA or an AMusA this year. An exceptional Year 10 oboist was placed in the top six oboe players under 30 years of age in the world at the International Spring Music Festival in Prague. These are remarkable achievements by some very talented and dedicated young men. Our Pipes and Drums Band have also achieved outstanding

success this year, winning the Juvenile Victorian Championships, and both the Juvenile and Grade 3 Australian Championships. This is the first time a juvenile band has won an adult grade competition at the Australian Championships. The band will travel to Glasgow later this year to compete in the world championships. Many boys involve themselves in the rich drama program, either as part of the cast in one of the three major school plays and one musical the School stages each year, or as part of a backstage crew. Debating and public speaking continue to attract a good number of boys and achieve a great deal of success, individually and in the team competitions organised by the Debating Association of Victoria. At the end of last year, eight Year 11 boys, forming two teams, travelled to Singapore to compete in the Prometheus Cup, an international debating competition involving teams from 15 countries around the world. The boys thoroughly enjoyed the experience and performed admirably, finishing 12th and 16th

Sport continues to play an important role in the lives of our boys. The 1st Rowing VIII continued its remarkable success winning the Victorian Schools Championships, the NSW Schools Championships and the APS Head of the River for the tenth time in the last eleven years. Our first badminton and squash teams also won premierships in their respective competitions. Individual success at state and national level has come in a wide range of sports, including athletics, boxing, cycling, futsal, rugby league, rugby union, sailing, skiing, soccer, swimming and water polo.

Our partnership with Hume Central Secondary College in Broadmeadows continues to prosper, particularly in mathematics where a member of our staff travels to Hume each fortnight to tutor students and staff, and mentor their Head of Department. Students from Hume have attended English lectures at Scotch and the bonds established in Art and Psychology continue to strengthen. The Australian newspaper recently listed Hume Central as a school on the rise and the Principal of Hume, Glenn Proctor, was kind enough to point to our partnership as a significant factor in this improvement.

Our Social Services and Outreach programs remain an integral part of the School's offerings. Once again, a number of Year 12 boys, along with students from other schools in the area, acted as companions at the annual Sony STAR camp, which provides respite for parents of children with severe disabilities. The companions were supported by over one hundred volunteer staff, including doctors and nurses, who, in the main, are parents and staff from the schools involved.

Our Indigenous Partnership Program has provided boys with the opportunity to work with the girls of Worowa College, assist with a football clinic for indigenous students in North Melbourne and visit Tiwi College on Melville Island. The School has recently formed a partnership with the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation which provides scholarship funds on an equal basis with the School, and offers pathways for career support beyond school.

Continuing participation in the Global Village program had boys assisting in two building projects in Cambodia, while over one hundred boys participated in the annual 24 Hour Hike raising \$25,778 for the Heart and Lung Transplant Trust. A number of boys, under the guidance of our Head of Christian Education, Brian Ahern, are involved in the online refugee tutoring of a group of African students in Shepparton. Early this year a cheque for \$92,000 was presented to Mr Chris Varney from World Vision to build a library at Chitulika High School, thus completing the third

stage of the School's commitment to the education of children in this region of Zambia. It is a commitment which began in 2005 with the building of a base (primary) school in the village of Kapumfi, some 80km from Chitulika, and has also seen Chitulika High School equipped with a science facility. Boys have also organised activities to raise money for the Y-House Foundation, an organization that provides long term housing for young people with physical disabilities and other challenges rendering them unable to live at home.

In addition to the marking of significant events through our days of remembrance, the School is undertaking important projects as part of the World War One and World War Two commemorations. The east wall of Memorial Hall is to be cleaned to make the names more legible, and the lists of the fallen on both the east wall WWI Honour Roll and the west wall WW2 Honour Roll are to be updated (our research indicates that there are names missing on both rolls). The School will also be constructing a website database holding an entry on each Scotch Collegian who served in WWI. Each entry would include information regarding the Old Boy's Scotch career, enlistment date, postings and service record. It is envisaged that the website would have the capability to be 'searched' using Google by anyone in the world.

In conclusion, I can report, with confidence, that the School's programs, and the opportunities and experiences they engender, support and reinforce the objects set down in the *Memorandum and Articles of Association of Scotch College*.

The Hon Dr D A Kemp
CHAIRMAN OF SCOTCH COLLEGE COUNCIL

SELECTION COMMITTEE (Min. 92)

The Selection Committee has met as required since the 2013 Assembly by email, to attempt to fill casual vacancies which have arisen in the membership of Assembly committees.

In the past year three major issues have surfaced:

1. An increasing difficulty in filling casual vacancies
2. Committees not abiding by the rules which govern committee appointments
3. Committees not having a clear succession plan

Increasing Vacancies

This year it has proved exceedingly difficult to fill the vacancies that have arisen due to a variety of reasons.¹ As the Assembly approved the nominations last year it did so with 22 vacancies. The number of vacancies has been on the rise over the past decade.

There are four ways in which we can address the issue

1. Reduce the number of committees
2. Reduce the number of members on committees
3. Increase the number of people serving on committees
4. Do nothing

The Selection Committee's preferred option is that the assembly consider a combination of Options one and two, that is, to reduce the number of committees and the size of individual committees. While Option three seems like a great option, many ministers in particular already feel that demands beyond the parish are taking too much time away from local ministry.

State	Committees	Congregations ²	Communicants and Adherents ³
South Australia	11	16	606
Western Australia	5	9	678
Tasmania	10	19	1,220
New South Wales	15	339	23,742
Queensland	8	127	7,348
Victoria	25	149	7,865

When we consider the committee structures in our sister churches they have a smaller committee blueprint. Our church is a committee *heavy* church. When we compare ourselves to Queensland, which has a similar number of parishes, we have three times more committees. When compared to New South Wales we note that it has more than twice the number of congregations, three times the membership, and ten *less* committees.

Below we have included the committee structures in other states so as to begin discussion about our own structures.

¹ In 2006 BB Min 90.4 there was "increasing difficulty" in finding people prepared to serve on committees.

² This data is from the 2011 Key, p 100. The 2014 Key does not contain any statistical data.

³ *ibid.*

PCSA Committees

1. Ballot Committee
2. Board to Nominate Moderator
3. Business Committee Group
4. Church and Nation
5. Code Committee
6. Finance and Admin Group
7. Missions Committee Group
8. Moderator's Committee
9. Pastoral Ethics Committee
10. Presbyterian Trusts Corporation
11. Theological and Christian Education Committee Group

PCWA Committees

1. Business/General Purpose (inc. Code)
2. Church and Nation
3. Finance Committee
4. Mission and Evangelism Committee
5. Theological Education Committee

PCTAS Committees

1. APWM (Tasmania)
2. Christian Education
3. Church Extension
4. Church and Nation
5. Code
6. Contact with Christian Reformed Churches
7. Defence Force Chaplaincy
8. Hospital Chaplaincy
9. Presbytery Records
10. Theological Education

PCNSW Committees

Ordinary Committees

1. APWM (NSW) [12]
2. Business [7]
3. Code [9]
4. Conciliation [6]
5. Gospel, Society and Culture (formerly 'Church and Nation') [10]
6. METRO [7]
7. Ministry and Mission [12]
8. Presbyterian Aged Care [12]
9. Presbyterian Theological Centre Committee [13]
10. Social Service [9]

Special Committees

11. Assembly Audit
12. Ballot [4]
13. Media Liaison Office
14. Pastoral Relations Commission [4]
15. Presbytery Records [3]

PCQ Committees

1. Ballot Committee [4]
2. Examination of Records Committee [4]
3. Finance and Administration Board
4. Property Board
5. Committee on Ministries Training
6. Committee on Ministries Resourcing
7. Committee on Outreach and Nurture
8. APWM (Queensland) [11]

PCV Committees

1. Assessors Committee
2. APWM Victoria
3. Ballot Committee
4. Board of Investment and Finance
5. Building and Property Committee
6. Business Committee
7. Christian Education and Nurture Committee
8. Church and Nation Committee
9. Church Planting Committee
10. Church Records Management and Archives Committee⁴
11. Clerkship Committee
12. Code and General Admin Committee
13. Conciliation Committee
14. Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee
15. Exit Student Committee
16. General Mission Program Committee
17. Heath and Community Chaplaincy Committee
18. Maintenance of the Ministry Committee
19. METRO Committee
20. Ministry Development Committee
21. Moderator's Committee
22. Records Committee
23. Selection Committee
24. Social Services Committee
25. State News Committee
26. Theological Education Committee
27. Ad Hoc Committees
 1. Presbyterian Christian Schooling
 2. Sites Reserve
 3. Breaking the Silence – Safe Church Unit

Committees not abiding by the rules

There are a number of committees which have in the past operated outside of the code. There is an ongoing issue of failure to notify the Selection Committee of resignations. There is also a common practice of filling vacancies without consulting the Selection Committee. This makes the job of the Selection Committee all the more difficult, as we attempt to ensure people serve on committees for the right amount of

⁴ Committee has not been discharged but does not operate. The duties of the committee are performed by Clerk of Assembly see 2013 Code Book p198.

time, ensuring they are eligible to serve and are not over committing themselves to committees.

This situation leads us to conclude that either:

1. Committees start to follow the rules concerning the appointment of committee members, or
2. The Selection Committee be discharged and the code altered to allow committees to continue to operate as they have been.

A Lack of Succession Planning

Two Committees are, at the time of White Book submissions, completely empty (Records Committee and Moderators Committee). This has arisen primarily due to an inability to fill casual vacancies over a number of years. Compounding this issue is the lack of attention given to the case of the Records Committee. Previous assemblies have appointed Rev G Nicholson to convene the committee despite having been on the committee more than nine consecutive years (see rule 5.28) and serving beyond seven years as the convener without express Assembly approval (see rule 5.27).

Each year committees ought to reflect on upcoming changes in membership especially when a member is coming up to their final year of serving. Committees should begin to consider who might replace retiring members and start preparing for transition.

SELECTION COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS

After consulting the respective committees, boards, councils and other bodies, the Selection Committee brings the following nominations to the Assembly for their appointment on those bodies. Any alterations notified after the deadline for the white book will be presented via an Assembly paper and/or notice of motion.

GAV APPOINTMENTS

Ad Hoc Committee on Development of Presbyterian Christian Schooling in Victoria

Very Rev Dr A M Harman, Rev D Schulz, Rev C S Kroeger, Rev P Owen, Rev M Wishart, Mr J Bligh, Rev J Cho, Mrs A Withers.

Convener: Mr J Bligh

Ad Hoc Committee to Revise 'Breaking the Silence' Document [safe church]

[Moderator, Law Agent, Clerk of Assembly, member of Code Committee, member of Trusts Corporation/Board of Investment and Finance]

Rev B Harvey

Convener: Moderator

Ad Hoc Committee on for Sites Reserve Funds

[Immediate Past Moderator (Convener), Clerk of Assembly, Law Agent, General Manager (Secretary), Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance and one nominee from each interested Presbytery.]

Ballarat	Rev M Crabb
Benalla	Rev K R Ee
Flinders	Rev D J Palmer
Geelong	Very Rev Dr A M Harman
Gippsland	Rev C Garrett

Kilnoorat	Rev I Leach
Maroondah	Rev D A Slater
Melbourne East	Very Rev Dr C R Thomas
Melbourne North	Mr B Miller
Melbourne West	Mr D Wright
North Western	Rev B Riding

Assessors Panel

[Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Convener of the Selection Committee, Convener of the Business Committee.]

Convener: Moderator

Building and Property [Architectural] Committee

[3 Members]

RT 15: Rev P Phillips [17]

RT 16: Vacancy

RT 17: Mr G Nixon [17]

Convener: Rev P Phillips [15]

Business Committee

[Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, 3 Members of Assembly not conveners of other reporting committees, Clerks of Presbyteries during Assembly]

RT 15: Rev P Mercer [19]

RT 16: Rev D Carroll [22]

RT 17: Mr K Childs [22]

Convener: Rev Dr J Hood [16] [Convener appointed for 3 years and eligible for reappointment, notwithstanding other regulations.]

Church Planting Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 15: Rev R J O'Brien [15], Mr P Leslie [15]

RT 16: Rev D W Elliott [15], Vacancy

RT 17: Rev B P Johnson [21], Rev C B Garrett [22]

Convener: Vacancy

Clerkship Committee

Moderator (Convener), Law Agent, Convener Business Committee, Convener Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance, and the two Immediate Past Moderators.

Conciliation Committee

[3 Ministers and 3 Elders appointed annually, plus the Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly as convener]

Ministers: Rev Dr R Carner [23], Rev P Orchard [17], Rev G Weber [19]

Elders: Mr V Vasiliades [23], Mr N Sharp [18], Rev B Downes [22]

Convener: Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

[3 Members, plus all full-time and part-time Australian Defence Force Chaplains serving in Victoria]

RT 15: Mr J Cawood [22]

RT 16: Rev P Mercer [22]
RT 17 : Rev B Riding [16]
Convener: Rev M De Pyle [17]

Exit Students Committee

Convener of the Ministry Development Committee, Ministry Development Officer, Principal of the Presbyterian Theological College [or his faculty representative], Training Officer, Convener of the Church Planting Committee [whenever a Church planting placement is being considered], Convener of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee [whenever a chaplaincy placement is being considered], a representative of each candidate's Presbytery [preferably the convener of the Presbytery's Candidates' Committee or equivalent]

Convener: Convener of Ministry Development Committee

General Mission Program Committee

[6 Members]

RT 15: Mr R Lowe [15], Mr B Kilmartin [15],
RT 16: Rev P Court [19], Mr K Davidson [22]
RT 17: Rev G Vayne [21], Mr N Sharp [20]

Convener: Mr N Sharp [20]

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Persons]

RT 15: Vacancy, Rev P Chang [22], Mrs T Orchard [17], Mrs A Robertson [19]
RT 16: Vacancy, Rev G Vayne [22], Rev P Court [22]
RT 17: Vacancy, Rev M Fagan [18], Rev C LePage [18]

Convener: Rev M Fagan [18]

Moderator's Committee

[2 Elders, 1 Minister as Convener, plus the Moderator and Moderator Designate]

RT 15: Vacant

RT 16: Vacant

RT 17: Vacant

Convener: Vacant

Records Committee

[6 Members of Assembly, at least 3 Ministers]

RT 15: Vacancy, Vacancy

RT 16: Vacancy, Vacancy

RT 17: Vacancy, Vacancy

Convener: Vacancy

Social Services Committee

[Convener and 9 Members]

RT 15: Mr B Miller [18], Mr D Gibb [19], Mrs R Rodgers [21]

RT 16: Miss B Firth [15], Mr J Nuske [21], Mr B Evans [21]

RT 17: Mr D Wright [14], Miss R Strother [22], Mr G Hamilton [22]

Convener: Mr R Lowe [15]

State News Committee

[2 Ministers and 2 Elders]

RT 15: Rev N Harvey [18]

RT 16: Mr A Zirngast [22], Mr P Betts [19]

RT 17: Rev P Daffy [15]

Convener: Rev N Harvey [16]

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

ACCESS Ministries

Rev G Lawry, Mrs A Thomas

CCAP Blantyre Synod Malawi

Trustee for Orbus: The Clerk of Assembly

Council For Chaplains In Tertiary Institutions

Mr P Leslie, Rev D Martin

Family Council Of Victoria

[Appointee to report to Assembly through the Church and Nation Committee]

Mrs J Manners

Leaders Of Churches

The Moderator and Immediate Past Moderator

Press Officer

The Moderator in consultation with the clerk of Assembly and the convener of the Church and Nation Committee

PWMU Cook Book Committee

Rev J Wilson

St Andrew's Foundation

Mrs M Conradi, Rev R O'Brien, Mr C Morrow

The Bible Society

Rev K D W Allen

Cameron Garrett
CONVENER

SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE (Min. 51)

Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes

Mission

The mission of Kirkbrae Presbyterian Homes is to provide a high standard of loving care informed by the Bible and the example of Jesus Christ for our residents in pleasant and comfortable accommodation.

Property development

Following the approval of the Commission of Assembly on the 6th May to spend \$6M to build eight units, Administrative building and infrastructure there have been further discussions with Melbourne Water to resolve issues related to their land which bisects Kirkbrae.

It is anticipated once they are resolved to the satisfaction of Melbourne Water the committee will be able to call for tenders by building companies in late August.

The committee is frustrated by the delay in commencing construction but we are mindful of our responsibilities and we pray once a building company is selected the project will run according to the development program.

Presbyterian Aged Care National CEO network

CEO Mr Mark Sketcher attended the CEO network meeting held in Hobart on the 13th and 14th March. Matters discussed were federal government payments for aged care, changes to Accommodation Bond rules and increased complaints from resident families concerning the financial implications for home/assets when moving into residential care.

Residential Care services

Kirkbrae provides accommodation and care services for 110 residents who require hostel or nursing home care. Under federal legislation, the facility is evaluated by auditors who assess every aspect of the care services and the systems that underpin that care. Kirkbrae was assessed in March 2014 and re-accredited for a three year period, demonstrating the quality of holistic care delivered every day.

Financial Position

Throughout the financial year Kirkbrae has operated with an overall operational surplus meaning that we do not have to rely on cash being returned from interest earned on investments, even though this is factored into the operating budget. This enables the interest earned to be reinvested along with other cash reserves.

Discussions with PCV Trusts Corporation

In May the Convener and CEO met with the General Manager PCV and the Secretary of the TC-BIF to discuss the proposed quarterly 'balanced scorecard' report. A number of related issues were discussed with the following outcomes:

1. The TC-BIF members are Trustees and effectively non-executive directors with a need to meet statutory obligations as defined for Board members under the Corporations Act. As such, they must be able to demonstrate that they are aware of Kirkbrae's key activities and issues to ensure that activities (aged care, retirement village, corporate business, employment, OH&S, financial,

tax, charity, etc.) are carried out in accordance with the relevant legislation, that good governance is practiced and that there are effective procedures to escalate and communicate matters that may pose significant risk for PCV.

2. Kirkbrae will provide to TC-BIF copies of documents that relate to the recent accreditation, indexes of Policies and Procedures, and Annual meeting schedules as initial reference materials for key activities. (Kirkbrae already provides Budgets and financial audit data.)
3. Kirkbrae has provided information to assist the TC-BIF in creating a Delegations Manual for the organisation. They will continue to work on this document. (Kirkbrae has the '2012 Delegations of Authority' manual and will continue to develop this at the local level to include authorities for senior managers for decision making and financial matters.)

The discussions were fruitful and provides both parties with a clear understanding of their responsibilities to one another.

The Social Services Committee wishes to thank Mr Andrew Letcher, Secretary PCV Trusts Corporation and Mr Michael Ellison for their advice and support.

Poor of Melbourne Fund

The fund has been drawn down for two purposes in the past twelve months:

1. To financially assist with Ingoing Retention costs for a retired missionary couple at Kirkbrae.
2. Has provided funds to the Presbyterian and Scots' Joint Mission Flemington to financially assist needy families with the purchase of school uniforms, text books and to attend school camps.

St Andrew's Foundation- Application for Grant

The committee was successful in receiving a grant of \$42,500 from the Trustees of the St Andrew's Foundation towards the ongoing support and development for our Chaplain and Pastoral Carer for their pastoral care programs.

The Douglas Family Trust

In May the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, Trusts Corporation received a donation of \$50,000 from Mr Alan Douglas for the purpose of assisting the poor and needy anywhere in Australia.

The committee would encourage congregations in regional and country parishes to apply for financial assistance for individuals or families in need.

Thomas Hall Bequest

Funds provided from the Thomas Hall Bequest by the Social Services Committee to congregations for their young members and youth leaders to attend PYV camps in 2013/2014 are as follows:

Bendigo Presbyterian Church – three youth leaders/five young members \$1,675

Bundoora Presbyterian Church – two young members \$550

Canterbury Presbyterian Church – three youth leaders/seven young members \$2,150

Cranbourne Presbyterian Church – eight young members \$2,200

Drouin Presbyterian Church – 11 young members \$2,475

Epping Presbyterian Church - one young member \$275
Frankston Presbyterian Church -22 young members \$6,050
Morwell Presbyterian Church -one young member \$200
Skipton / Lismore Presbyterian Church – two young members \$450
South Yarra Presbyterian Church – one young member \$275
South Yarra Arabic Presbyterian Church – five young members \$1,000
Sunshine Presbyterian Church – two young members \$550
Surrey Hills Presbyterian Church – three youth leaders/seven young members \$2,255
Warrnambool Presbyterian Church – six young members \$810

The Social Services Committee has financially assisted nine youth leaders and 80 young members and made full payment for them to attend PYV camps for a total of \$20,915.

In July, Rev Brian Harvey, Youth Ministries Director PYV was a guest of the committee. He spoke of the events PYV young people were involved with and the camps they would be attending later in the year. Rev Harvey expressed thanks to the committee for their financial support on behalf of the PYV Council.

The committee would encourage congregations to take advantage of the Thomas Hall Bequest by downloading an application from www.Kirkbrae.org.au and click on application forms.

Pastoral Care Kirkbrae and Tannoch Brae, Geelong

The Rev Wally Gear Chaplain at Kirkbrae continues to provide faithful Christian ministry to the residents.

With Chapel services in the Hall, support for several mission organisations by the congregation, Bible Studies and hospital visiting there is a full program of church activity in the Village by the Rev Gear.

Commencing this year a Presbyterian Communion Service is held on the 3rd Tuesday of the month in Residential Care. This has been welcomed by the residents and staff. The committee is blessed that the Rev Wally Gear, with his care for the residents, serves the Lord at Kirkbrae.

Mrs Janine Motyer, Pastoral Carer was commissioned with two other Presbyterian Healthcare Chaplains at a Commissioning Service on 20 October 2013. The Chaplains were commissioned by Rev Miles Fagan, the Convener of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee (HCCC) and Rt Rev David Palmer, current Moderator of the PCV.

Janine has brought a warm, thoughtful and compassionate response to the lives of the residents in our aged care facility. By being engaged with the residents, listening to their concerns, sharing their experiences, praying with them and reading their favourite scripture verses, Janine has the ability to comfort them in their time of need. Janine is a vital member of our Pastoral Care team and we are very pleased to have her serve God and his church at Kirkbrae.

Kirkbrae is also blessed to have a number of visiting pastoral carers from local churches who provide religious and spiritual care and represent a number of

denominations. Working with Rev Wally Gear and Janine, they collectively serve residents, visitors and staff.

In June 2014 Kirkbrae established a Pastoral Care Unit that will consolidate their efforts and provide support and development as they seek to meet the spiritual and religious needs of all who are part of the Kirkbrae community. While this change is mainly a structural one, their day-to-day responsibilities of contact and communication with residents, visitors and staff will essentially remain the same. The development of the Pastoral Care Unit and its work will benefit from the ongoing support from the HCCC.

The Rev Andrew Bray, Chaplain of Tannoch Brae Senior Living – Bellarine, Geelong, was a guest at our June committee meeting where he gave a very comprehensive report of the history and ownership of the property.

Providing pastoral care one half day a week, organising a preaching roster for Sunday worship services, assisting with fortnightly Bible Study and being on call in need enables Rev Bray to serve God and his church at Tannoch Brae.

The committee is blessed that Rev Bray continues to provide a caring ministry to the residents and staff of Tannoch Brae on behalf of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

A Chapel for Kirkbrae

The chapel development is ongoing. Two alternative suggestions have been made and are being considered by the committee:

1. Remodel the existing Administrative building for a chapel when staff have relocated to the new building.
2. Remodel the 'Blue Lounge' at the southern end of the lower hostel for a chapel.

The committee has sought the advice of the Church Architect to assist in the design and development of the chapel.

Committee Membership

After ten years of dedicated service on the Social Services Committee it was with regret we farewelled Miss Rae Anstee.

We give thanks to Miss Rae Anstee for her commitment, compassion and care for the welfare of the residents. It is a tribute to her that the committee can look forward to the future with a strong foundation.

With one vacancy the committee was pleased to welcome Miss Rosalie Strother as a new member. Miss Strother has a nursing background and is a member of Scots' Church, Melbourne.

Appreciation

To members of the committee a heartfelt thanks for your support, enthusiasm and your willingness to contribute to the welfare of the residents of Kirkbrae.

The appointment of Mr Mark Sketcher as CEO twelve months ago by the committee has been justified by his relationship with the executive team, the driving of new policy and his vision for the future of Kirkbrae.

We are indeed blessed that he has joined us with his strong Christian faith, leadership skills and concern for the welfare of the residents and staff.

After 23 years of service to the residents of Kirkbrae, Mrs Val Inverarity (ILU Manager) retired on the 4th July. Val a loyal and committed member of the executive team will be greatly missed by all at Kirkbrae. We ask for God's blessing on Val in her retirement.

Committee Membership

Mr Robert Lowe / Convener
Mr Bruce Evans
Miss Rosalie Strother
Mr Greg Hamilton
Mr Bruce Miller

Mr David Gibb / Secretary
Mr Dennis Wright
Miss Barbara Firth
Mrs Roberta Rodgers
Mr Jim Nuske

In Conclusion

Let us remember Paul's words in 2 Thessalonians 2:17 'comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word'.

Robert Lowe
CONVENER

Social Services Committee

Kirkbrae

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Donations & Gifts	75,820
Grants & Subsidies Received	6,272,678
Interest & Investment Income	1,166,810
Fees, Ingoings & Meals	3,400,693
Profit/(Loss) on Sale of Asset	96,589
Net Unrealised Gain on Revaluation of Investments	1,355,820
Total Income	<u>12,368,410</u>

Expenditure:

Accounting & Audit Fees	29,120
Depreciation	734,191
Education & Training	52,550
Fees Chaplaincy & Consulting	107,388
Insurance Fire & General	77,104
Residents Expenses	999,307
Legal Fees	11,688
Office Expenses	245,859
Personnel Related Costs	7,107,491
Property Expenses & Improvements	847,022
Total Expenditure	<u>10,211,721</u>

Surplus/(Deficit) on General Operations

2,156,689

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	10,730
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	2,156,689
Decrease / (Increase) in Current Assets	(755,163)
Decrease / (Increase) in Fixed Assets	58,305
Decrease / (Increase) in Separately Invested Funds	(2,507,019)
(Decrease) / Increase in Current Liabilities	1,062,050
(Decrease) / Increase in Non-Current Liabilities	(25,295)
Balance 30/6/14	297

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/14 **39,150**

Separately Invested Funds

Balance 30/6/14 **21,063,946**

Social Services Committee

Specific Trust Accounts

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

Donations	50,000
Interest & Investment Income	43,814
Total Income	93,814

Expenditure:

Grants	29,965
Total Expenditure	29,965

Surplus on Specific Trusts

63,849

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	357,404
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	63,849
Transfer to Perpetual	(50,000)
Balance 30/6/14	371,253

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/14	50,000
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ST ANDREWS CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (Min. 72)

OUR MOTTO

Glory to God

OUR MISSION

To educate our students so that they are well skilled, understand life on the basis of biblical truth, and are motivated to walk with God and serve Him in their lives, so that they will be a positive Christian influence in the world.

OUR PURPOSE

- To honour and glorify God in all we do at St Andrews Christian College
- To learn the truth of the gospel and how to interpret this into everyday life
- To provide a safe and nurturing learning environment which encourages students to know, love and serve God and to know their purpose in the world
- To learn to love and serve others in an environment of grace, acceptance, truth, justice and mercy
- To support parents as the prime educators of their child
- To aspire to educational excellence that enables each child to fulfil their potential: academically, spiritually, emotionally, physically, socially and culturally
- To be a leading provider of Christian education and academic excellence

We continue to be thankful to God that we have the freedom to operate as a school where we desire that all our students come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour and know their purpose in this world.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 states,

“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.”

St Andrews Christian College exists to assist parents to fulfil this mandate. We partner with parents to teach our children how to grow as whole people, made in the image of God, made for the purpose of knowing, loving and serving God.

How blessed we are in Christian Education, that in His grace we have the opportunity every day to minister to students and their families. We have an opportunity to guide future generations in kingdom values, educating our young ones not just for today but for eternity.

Together as a community and as the body of Christ, we have the wonderful privilege of encouraging each other in our journey in Him, growing up into Him, using the gifts and talents He has given us to serve our Lord and each other.

The opportunities we have as a Christian School, with committed Christian staff, espousing kingdom values must not be taken for granted.

With Victoria heading for an election later this year, we are conscious of possible changes to legislation that could be a threat to faith-based schools.

In May, at Labor's Victorian ALP Conference, they adopted a platform that would 'Reverse the Coalition Governments' amendments to the Equal Opportunity Act, including the reinstatement of 'bonafide occupational requirement' limitation on the religious exemptions (Stephen O'Doherty – CEO of Christian Schools Australia).

To be a Christian school we need to be able to employ Christian staff. If the ALP's platform comes to fruition, it would mean that faith-based schools would no longer be exempt from the relevant Equal Opportunity Legislation to discriminate in areas of faith, when employing staff.

GROWTH

The past year at St Andrews Christian College has been a story of growth and many blessings.

Results from our 2013 independent surveys display that 97% of staff and 98% of parents are satisfied or very satisfied with the overall education at St Andrews.

The restructure of the College in 2013 into a Junior, Middle and Senior School has contributed to the College's growth and development in significant ways. This growth is evident in increased student numbers (currently 516), expanding waiting lists for enrolment and a continuing upward trend in student retention. The restructure also involved developing a new executive leadership team. They are proving to be excellent leaders who are continually improving educational outcomes, streamlining administrative processes and delivering exceptional oversight of their staff and students. The restructure has introduced more programs and initiatives across the College providing a solid platform for the College to continually strive for excellence-in-Christ. The educational, social, emotional and spiritual advantages of the new structure will continue to be significant for the ongoing improvement for all our students and for the whole College.

St Andrews Christian College continues to shine as a school of high academic achievement. NAPLAN results and external academic competitions are well above state and national averages. Results for VCE are extremely pleasing with our highest ATAR score being 99.65 in 2013.

What is more important and exciting to witness is the progress of each student. We celebrate the development of each student and place more emphasis on each individual's progress and effort than final result.

FUTURE GOALS

In establishing future goals for St Andrews Christian College, many factors have been considered by the College Board, Executive Leadership Team and Staff. These include:

- Consolidation of our Vision and Mission
- Validation of the purpose of St Andrews Christian College
- Identifying our distinctives and strengths
- Collection and analysis of relevant data, including Staff/Parent/Student Surveys, academic results, individual student improvement rates, retention rates of staff and students

- Consolidation of the 10 Year Financial Plan and Master Plan
- Ongoing discussions and presentations to the Board, Staff and Parent communities.

To continue to achieve our Mission and grow a dynamic, leading Christian School, St Andrews Christian College had developed programs and plans which focus on our four Strategic Priorities:

- Christ-Centred College
- Learning and Teaching Excellence
- Building Community
- Infrastructure Development

THANKSGIVING

With a building grant from the Australian Government and financial support from the PCV, we look forward to the commencement of building our new Senior School and Innovation Centre in the latter part of the year. This addition to the College will continue to improve our growing Senior School (Years 9-12) and provide further opportunities for all our students.

We are so thankful to the PCV and the Trust Corporation for their ongoing advice, support and prayers for the College.

We praise God for the wonderful community of St Andrews Christian College – students, parents, staff, committees and College Board.

We thank God – the head and sustainer of St Andrews Christian College, for all His blessings and provisions in so many ways.

Catriona Wansbrough
PRINCIPAL

STATE NEWS COMMITTEE (Min. 40)

The last twelve months have seen the continuation of the quarterly publication of *fellow workers* under the very capable editorship of Mrs Chiara Bilyj, with its mix of Victorian, Australian and International items.

The committee appreciates the continued co-operation of Australian Presbyterian World Mission (National) and Presbyterian Inland Mission both in providing content and making substantial financial commitments. As Commissioners would know from the Commission of Assembly in May, *fellow workers* did not need to request a contribution from the GMP.

It was suggested to the committee that the work of the editor ought to be recognised not only in our annual report but also by way of an honorarium.

The committee, after consideration of this suggestion, agrees with it, and in due course will seek the payment of an honorarium of \$2,000 per annum, coming into effect in the 2015-2016 budget. This may need to be funded from GMP.

Leaving aside contributions from organisations, committees and individuals, the four most recent issues of *fellow workers* contained contributions from eight of our eleven presbyteries, with Flinders leading the way, closely followed by Melbourne East, Maroondah and North Western Victoria.

The church has an attractive magazine full of matters for praise and prayer. What steps are you taking to put it into the hands of your parishioners?

Neil Harvey
CONVENER

State News Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

General Mission Programme	4,701
Common Fund Interest	6,452
Total Income	11,153

Expenditure:

Newsletter Production Costs	12,601
Contribution to production costs from PIM and APWM	(5,167)
Total Expenditure	7,434

Surplus on General Operations

3,720

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	51,965
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	3,720
Balance 30/6/14	55,685

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE (Min. 104)

The TEC continues to be grateful for the resources God has entrusted to the denomination for the training of our pastors and for the gifted faculty provided for that purpose. The principal, faculty and staff have all served ably and diligently over the last twelve months in a very demanding context, and through their efforts the PTC continues to be a place that prepares and equips our candidates, ministers and others for the service of God's people through teaching his word.

Candidates

Last year we noted that the principal had indicated an encouraging number of men applying to be candidates for the ministry and seeking to enrol in the College. In fact there have been 13 new candidates in the past year making a total of 19 candidates.

Candidates at the beginning of 2014 were as follows: Chris Dean, Russell Grinter, Chris Duke, Christian Tirtha, Luke Brownley, Stephen Jones, Brett Cummins, Stephen McDonald, Daniel Dixon, Karl Hood, Daryl Jackson, Greg Matthews, Nick Arundell, Jordan Brown, Wayne McArdle, Luke McSeveny, Ben Nelson and Jesse Walz.

The expected exit dates for these candidates are:

2014	2 exit students
2015	4 exit students
2016	6 exit students
2017	1 exit student
2018	6 exit students

The numbers 2015 and thereafter may change as new candidates are approved.

There has been a pleasing increase in the number of students studying at the College. Total enrolment of students for semester 1 this year was 75; an increase of 13 on semester 2, 2013 and an increase of 28 on semester 2, 2012.

There are two students (Rev Kevin Maxwell and Rev Mark Smith) undertaking studies at Masters level and two students (Rev Bruce Riding and Rev Stephen Vanderhoek) undertaking studies at Doctorate level.

We include with this report a proposed guide, *Candidate Attributes*, for assessing potential candidates as to suitability for pastoral ministry. This guide is intended to assist presbyteries and the TEC in their interviewing of potential candidates.

We have added a clause to the committee's deliverance to enable presbyteries to comment on the document with a view to the committee bringing forward a revised document to the 2015 General Assembly for its approval as the guide to be used in interviewing potential candidates.

Faculty

Counting our principal there are four fulltime faculty members. Given the range of subjects that must be offered and the fact that faculty is below strength in numbers, the College has been heavily reliant on part-time lecturers, a situation not ideal but we do wish to record our gratitude to our 11 part-time lecturers, Dr Allan Harman,

Douglas Milne and Richard Belcher; Mr Andrew Moody, Karl Hood, and Martin Pakula; Rev Nello Barbieri, Mark Smith and John Wilson; Ms Gillian Asquith and Wendy Bytheway.

Dr Bird completed 12 months sabbatical in 2013, Dr Hood is on 6 months sabbatical in the second semester of 2014 and Dr Chung likewise for the first semester of 2015.

Dr Bird has indicated his intention to retire at the end of 2015 which means that the TEC will advertise, interview and bring a recommendation to the General Assembly, preferably to the 2015 Commission of Assembly.

A proposed job description and terms of settlement for a lecturer in New Testament is included in this report.

Finances

In recent years the committee has struggled to make ends meet with both General Operations and Specific Trusts¹ more often in deficit than not. This cannot be allowed to continue as a reducing capital base means a reduction in interest available to the committee to meet the costs of running a theological college. See the attached graphs and tables indicating these difficulties.

Given the committee's current over stretched capital base and the need to add to our facilities, in particular a larger library and study area, and a further need, which we have yet to articulate, to add to our teaching and possibly support staff, it is clear to the committee that it will need to engage in major fund raising activities whilst continuing to seek significant funding, as in the past, through the General Mission Program.

This of course was what was done during the period of extending and enhancing the College facilities in the 1990s when the committee received very significant donations through the College Building and Library Funds, both funds possessing tax exempt status. In recent years donations to these two funds have been about a quarter of what they were in 1994 and 1995 in CPI adjusted terms, a situation which now needs to be reversed.

How we intend addressing these issues is developed further in this report in the section, *College 10 Year Strategic Plan*.

This year we are thankful to the Lord to record a \$100,000 donation from a non Presbyterian source for the Library and a \$100,667 bequest from the estate of Elvira Mary Pinches. But for these amounts the TEC would have recorded another year of deficits.

Committee Membership

Early in 2014, the Rev Neil Chambers found it necessary to resign whilst the Rev David Palmer agreed to join the committee as convener.

Neil served the committee with distinction bringing a strategic mindset to the task of developing both the committee and the College. He played a significant role in governance by overseeing a number of key appointments to the faculty and

¹ mainly library and bursary related trusts

strengthening ties with the General Assembly. The committee, though saddened by his resignation, was grateful for his six years of service, understanding the demands of a large congregation upon him, especially in the midst of a relocation of his church's premises and a significant building program.

The committee is pleased to advise that the Rev Neil Benfell has joined the committee bringing a wealth of educational experience. The other members of the committee at the time of writing this report are Rev David Palmer (convener), Rev Kevin Maxwell (secretary), Rev Chris Siriweera, Rev Barry Oakes, Rev Ivan Barker, Mr Brad Georges (Hawthorn Presbyterian Church), Mr Craig Manners (South Yarra Presbyterian Church), the principal, Mr Peter Hastie and Dr Jared Hood representing the faculty with Dr Tony Bird as alternate.

TEC Regulations

The TEC wishes to give this year's General Assembly advance notice that it intends proposing changes to its regulations to the Code Committee for presentation to the 2015 General Assembly.

While the committee envisages some tidying up of the regulations in respect of faculty, the major change is to the sections *Membership* and *Duties*.

The particular issue confronting the College and therefore the committee is that accountability is not simply to the General Assembly and the GAA but to a number of outside bodies as well.

The reality of modern tertiary education is that the faculty and the committee have major obligations to the Australian College of Theology (ACT) for five yearly re-accreditation, the next one due in 2016, and to the Government (which provides HECS fees to our non-candidates). These obligations require a special duty of care on the part of the committee, particularly in the areas of governance and delivery of curriculum and are in addition to the obligations that the committee has to the General Assembly.

This means that our standards of governance must reflect best practice in the delivery of higher education and corporate governance practice. These standards may not necessarily apply to other church committees, but in various ways they would apply to certain committees or boards such as the Trusts Corporation/Board of Investment and Finance, HCCC and Safe Church who must in relation to various government agencies necessarily maintain high levels of accountability and governance.

The rationale behind the changes that the committee is considering is that they will be more performance-oriented, designed to increase internal accountability and direct the committee to monitor its own and the College's performance and service delivery, all in the interests of the College and the church. We plan to make use of the Board of Investment and Finance regulations as a model for the changes to the TEC regulations that serve these purposes.

We are confident that the proposals to be developed will strengthen the performance of the committee and the principal/faculty and therefore meet with the approval of the General Assembly. Certainly, a revision of our regulations that emphasises the importance of governance will be appreciated by those who re-accredit us in 2016.

College 10 Year Strategic Plan

Last year the General Assembly, at the committee's own request, 'grant(ed) permission to the TEC to bring to the Commission of Assembly the names of suitable people to be members of a sub-committee to assist the TEC by both developing a Master Plan for the College property and also suggesting ways of funding the implementation of the Master Plan when adopted. The committee would bring a separate report to the General Assembly through the TEC'.

In the event, this clause in the committee's deliverance was not acted upon.

However, the committee is, with new membership and further informed reflection, proposing to work on a new strategic plan for the College over the course of the coming year and by way of a clause in the deliverance requires the committee to report to the 2015 General Assembly in respect of this matter.

No task is more important for the future well being of our College than pursuing this matter.

We believe the committee has within its ranks sufficient vision, skill and commitment of time to undertake the project. However, additionally, the committee will need to employ specific professional advice to assist in the areas of process, governance, building works and fund raising.

The following list of questions that the committee will need to address gives an indication of the scope of work that preparation of a strategic plan will require. It is likely that responsibility for answering each of the questions set out below will be assigned either to a committee member or a subcommittee as needed.

Please note however that any strategic plan we develop will be of necessity a staged affair over time so that staffing, student numbers, facilities and available funding are matched!

1. **What distinction do we see our College having that we would wish to promote as our *raison d'être*?**
2. **What is the annual requirement for exit students** to meet the requirements of the denomination extrapolated over the next 10, 15 years?

Comment: this will need to be done in cooperation with MDC and the CPC. Consideration will need to be given to the types of candidates we are looking for given the range of different church scenarios found in the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, as well as ministerial attrition rates. We will also need to give consideration to available (MDC, CPC and MMC) funding for the totality of our churches extrapolated forward.

3. **What students from outside the denomination can we expect** and should we cater for, and promote ourselves for, remembering that first and foremost we are a denominational college with all that that implies?
4. **What are the staffing requirements going forward**, including type of staffing - discipline, tasks required to be performed, i.e. for both lecturers and support staff?

The College is at least one staff member below where we should be. Each additional staff member requires an endowment of about \$1 million on the basis that the endowment is added to the Common Fund².

Furthermore, in the past we have traded heavily on staff who came to the College fully trained and equipped with higher degrees to undertake their responsibilities. In other words, the General Assembly did not need to fund the higher education of such staff. Going forward we need to provide funded scholarships for post graduate study to provide a pathway for theologically and academically gifted ministers to become qualified for theological education.

Therefore we need to review our policies and funding to ensure that we have the right settings that will enable us to have a sufficient number of Victorian sourced ministers who are appropriately trained for appointment to the Faculty of our College.

- 5. What are the requirements for Bursaries, including other specific trust fund expenditures?**
- 6. What are the requirements of Government and the Australian College of Theology (ACT) that impact on the College going forward?**

We are living in the midst of a great deal of change in the higher education environment in Australia, and much has changed since many of the General Assembly members may have undergone theological education.

Some major changes have occurred in the operations of the ACT and its affiliates such as our own college in the last decade. In 2004, ACT affiliated Colleges were approved to receive fee-help (HECS). Our students have also become eligible for Centrelink payments. This has opened up theological education to greater scrutiny by the government and entails an obligation on the part of the College to comply with quality assurance, risk compliance and accreditation reviews as part of our normal operations. This necessarily requires greater administrative support for the College and higher teaching and learning standards.

One of the strengths of the ACT program is that all colleges have their courses and exam results moderated. Two staff at the PTC, Dr Bird and Dr Chung, act as moderators for the ACT in the departments of New Testament and Chinese. This is in addition to their normal college lecturing and administrative load.

Obviously, in this environment, with greater government scrutiny and accountability, the TEC is faced with meeting more stringent requirements in terms of governance, policy formation, technology, library facilities, staff qualifications, publications and management of overseas students, to mention just a few of the challenges to which we must adjust.

The committee, as a matter of priority, plans to meet with the Dean and CEO of the ACT, Dr Mark Harding, and its Chairman, Professor Richard Cardew within

² If separately invested the 10 yr performance of the separately invested Harold Hughes (HCCC) Trust suggests a \$1.5 million endowment would be required.

the next six months, so that the committee is better informed of the obligations placed upon it both by Government and through affiliation with the ACT.

7. What are the requirement for new facilities?

Comment: we need an extension to the library, but to cater exactly for what in terms of annual purchase of books? journals? work space for students? other things?. Do we have enough meeting rooms, office space that will see us through the next 10-15 years.

8. Prepare cost estimates for all of the above including timed release of funds to do things.

9. Identify source of Funds

Comment: the TEC has lagged badly in recent years in appealing to the membership of the church for financial support for the College or in exploring outside funding opportunities. During the immediate period up to the global financial crisis we benefited enormously through the high Common Fund interest rates and two large bequests – the Thompson and Deakin bequests totalling \$560,000. This money was largely expended on the Residential units. The strategic plan will require fresh capital funding, the existing financial resources of the Committee, as noted above, are totally dedicated to the College as it is.

Manse Energy

The College principal and all full time lecturers have a clause in their terms of settlement that reads, 'payment of manse energy bills up to \$2,000 pa as a non cash benefit.' Due to the rapid rise in energy costs the committee is proposing a variation of terms of settlement to increase the limit to \$3,000 as from the 1st July 2015. The committee will require a periodic check to be made by faculty members to ensure that they take advantage of the best energy deal on offer.

Lecturer in New Testament Studies

The following job description for the Rev Dr Tony Bird's replacement as New Testament lecturer is submitted for the General Assembly's approval along with terms of settlement. This will allow the committee to commence advertising the position before the end of this year with the possibility of a recommendation to the 2015 Commission of Assembly or, at the latest, to the 2015 General Assembly.

1. Position Summary

The Presbyterian Theological College (PTC), the ministry training college of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, is seeking a lecturer in New Testament Studies. The PTC is a reformed and evangelical institution which has a vital role in developing, disseminating and supporting faithful gospel ministry in Melbourne, regional Victoria and beyond. The Assembly, through the Theological Education Committee (TEC), the body entrusted with the oversight of the College by the Victorian Assembly, is looking for a faithful Christian, academically able in the disciplines of Greek and New Testament studies and with experience in pastoral ministry, who can help students understand the New Testament and preach it today as God's Word. A lecturer at the PTC will also have a role as a theological resource to his brothers in parish ministry.

2. Responsibilities

The lecturer in New Testament will be responsible, under the Principal of the PTC, for delivery of lectures in the area of New Testament studies and New Testament Greek, teaching principally the Greek and New Testament courses of the ACT.

A lecturer must

- Set an example in life and ministry to the students.
- Contribute to the well-being of the college community.
- Be involved in and represent the College's interests in the life of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- Undertake administrative tasks delegated by the Principal.
- Stay abreast of educational developments and be willing to be innovative in the delivery of his courses and in their assessment.

These tasks will involve attendance at faculty meetings, participation in Australian College of Theology meetings in his area, and participation in Presbytery and Assembly.

3. Attributes

- Able to meet the qualifications of an elder as described in 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1, i.e. demonstrating a mature Christian character.
- Prayerful.
- Fully committed to the Bible as the inerrant Word of God.
- A capacity to communicate clearly.
- Ability to relate to people of diverse cultural backgrounds.

4. Qualifications

Essential

- Qualified in New Testament at Research Masters level or above.
- Ideally already possessing or working toward a doctorate and be interested in writing journal articles and/or books.
- A minister in full standing with the Presbyterian Church of Australia or willing to satisfy the requirements of the rules of the General Assembly of Australia relative to the reception of ministers from other churches.
- Pastoral experience.
- A wholehearted commitment to the Westminster Confession of Faith as a systematic exposition of the teaching of Scripture.

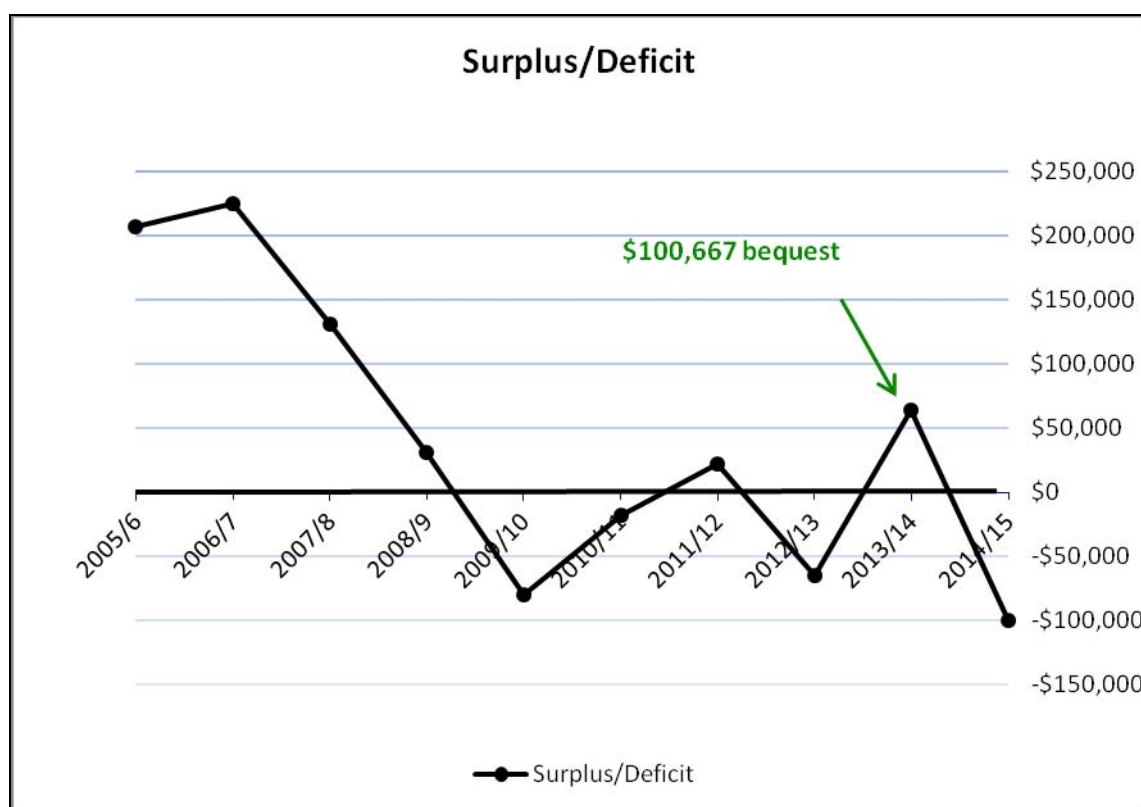
Achievements and Capabilities

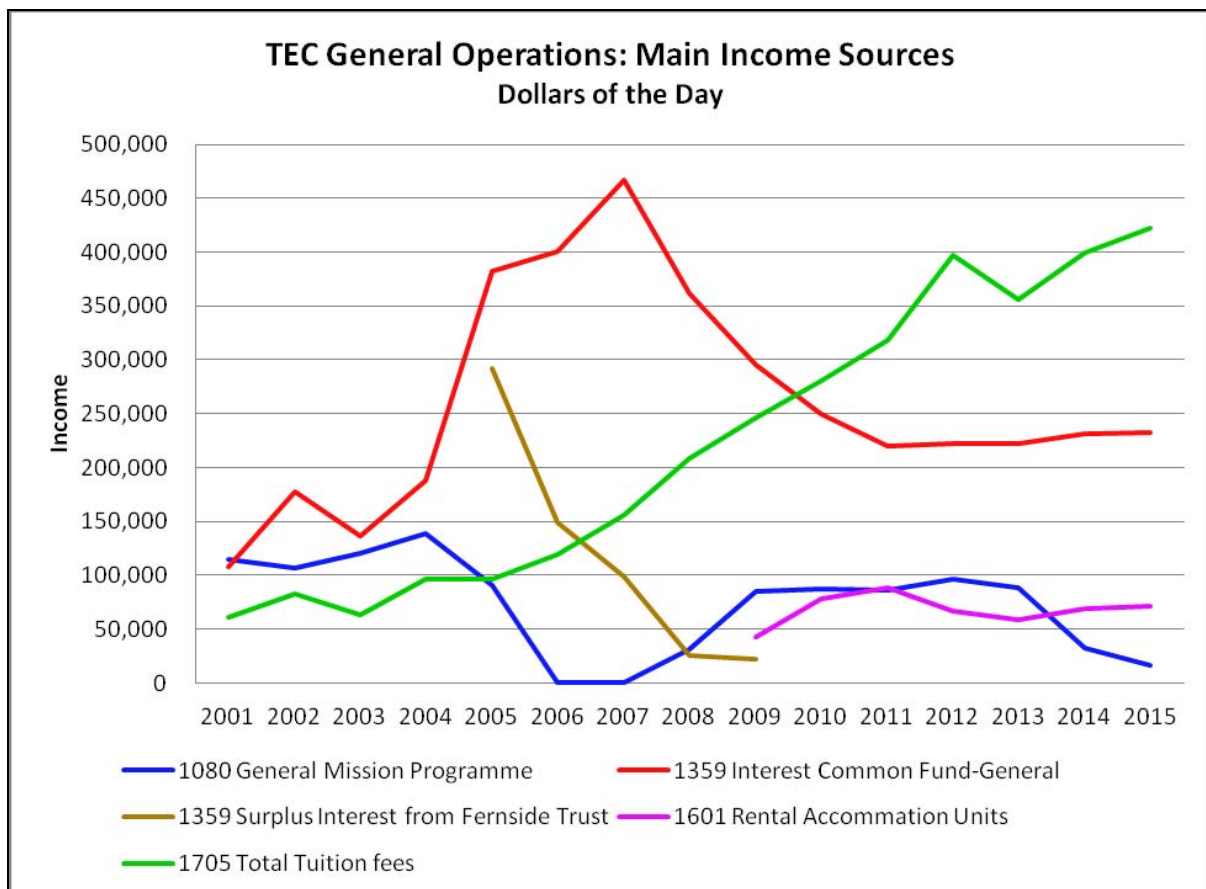
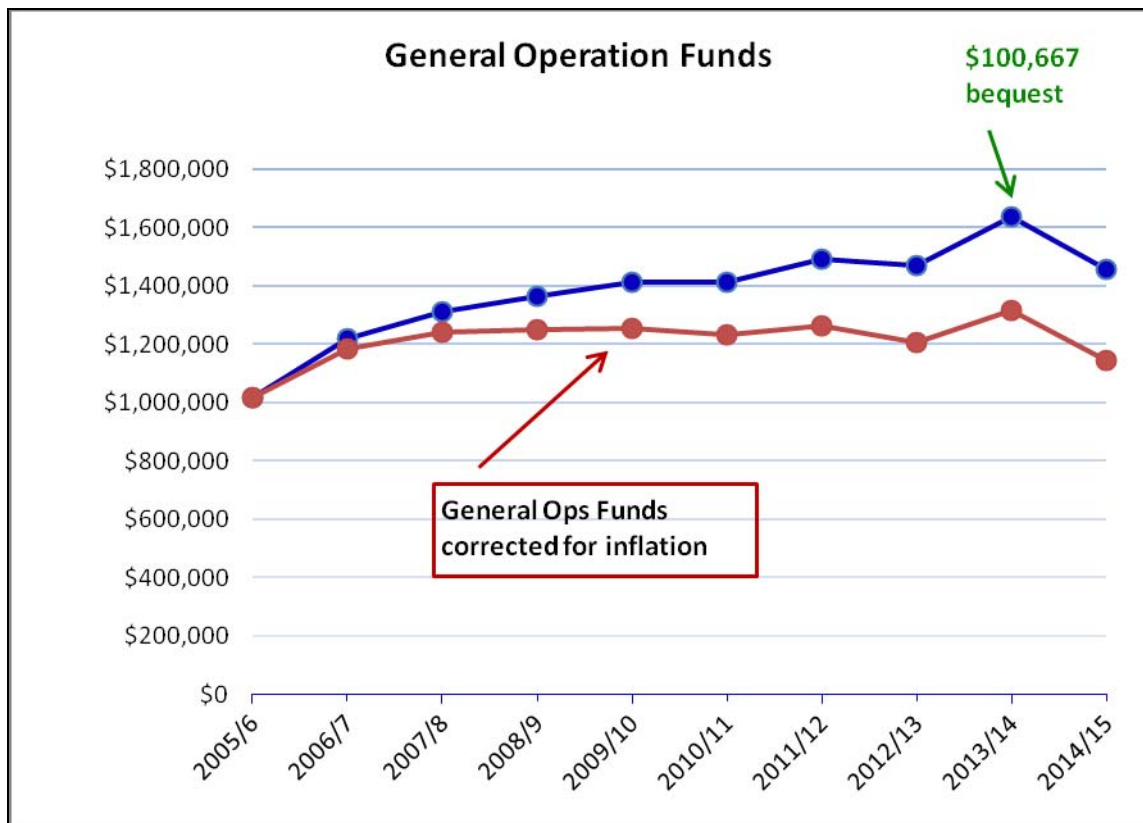
- Demonstrated ability to teach in his discipline, ideally with some experience in curriculum design and assessment.
- Educational experience with an awareness of different modes of delivery of courses.
- Understanding of the Australian higher educational context, especially of the expectations of the Australian College of Theology.
- Involvement in discipling and training others in ministry skills.
- Demonstrated capacity to work in a team.
- Experience in the activities of Presbytery and Assembly.
- Availability to preach at weekends and represent the College, as well as teaching evening classes.
- Administrative experience with an ability to share in the administrative work of a tertiary institution.

Terms of Settlement:

- a. 1.05 times the minister's minimum remuneration package as defined in the annual MMC deliverance to the Assembly.
- b. manse provided or benefit as set by the Theological Education Committee.
- c. telephone rent plus all calls.
- d. superannuation at the ministerial rate.
- e. six month's paid study leave during each fourth and each seventh year of appointment or alternatively twelve month's paid study leave during each seventh year of appointment.
- f. removal costs paid by the Theological Education Committee within Australia but a negotiated figure if from overseas.
- g. annual leave equivalent to ministerial annual leave as defined in the annual MMC deliverance to the Assembly, currently five weeks.
- h. workcover.
- i. payment of manse energy bills up to \$3,000 per annum as a non cash benefit.

TEC General Operation Funds



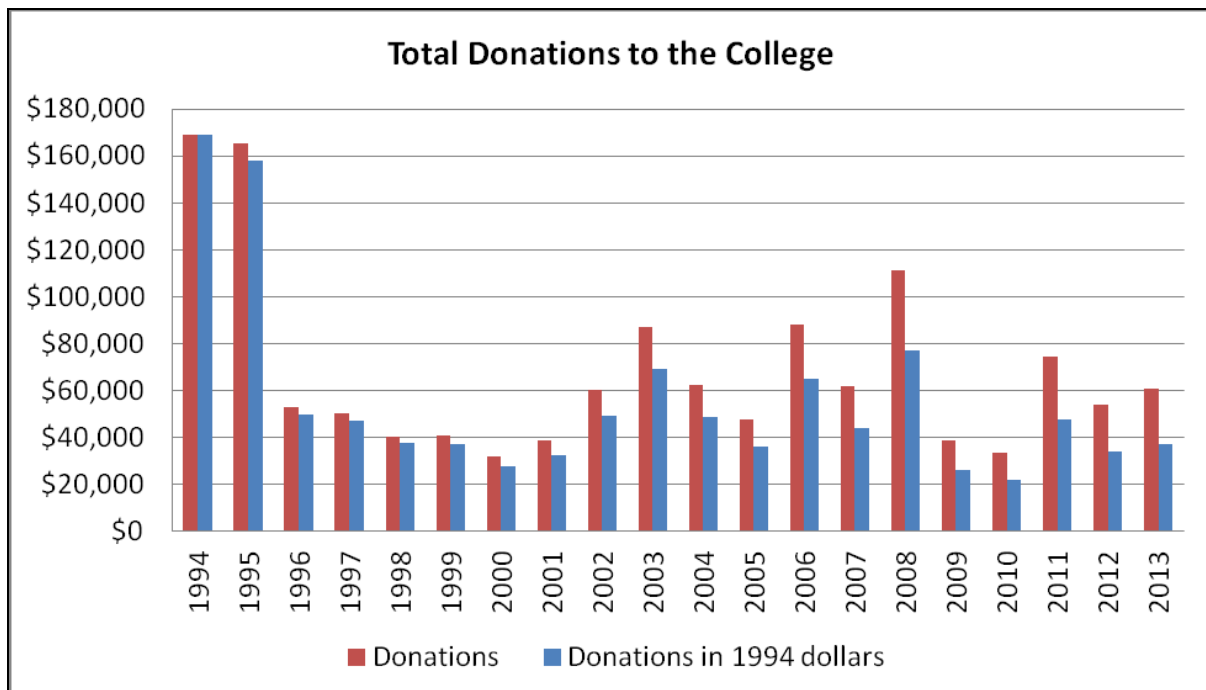


General Operations 2013/14 Income

		% of Total Income
Tuition Fees (Candidates, ex Bursary Funds)	\$163,025	18%
Tuition Fees (Private Students)	\$228,655	25%
GMP	\$30,920	3%
Metro Contribution (Training Officer)	\$30,000	3%
Bequest	\$100,667	11%
Interest Common Fund	\$230,996	25%
Residential Units Rental Income	\$87,551	10%
PTC Media Trading Profit	\$11,601	1%
Sundry Items	-\$103	0%
Total Income	\$883,312	100%

General Operations 2013/14 Expenditure

		% of Total Expenditure
Staff Related incl Training Officer	\$535,071	64%
Property	\$48,979	6%
Office	\$51,681	6%
Library (not covered by Library Trust)	\$50,736	6%
Residential Units	\$33,229	4%
PTC Media	\$11,894	1%
Total Expenditure (ca half ACT fees)	\$87,166	10%
Total Expenditure	\$818,756	100%



2013/14 Selected Specific Trusts

1. Bursary Trusts

Income	
Bequests	\$19,385
GMP	\$57,826
Interest Common Fund	\$81,935
Donations	\$22,104
Total Income	\$181,935
Expenses	
Bursaries	\$19,800
Grants for Tuition Fees	\$160,140
Total Expenses	\$179,940
Surplus	\$1,310
Bursary Specific Funds	\$128,460
Bursary Perpetual Funds	\$557,682
Total Bursary Funds (source of Common Fund Interest)	\$686,142

2. Library Fund

Income	
Interest Common Fund	\$11,876
Donations	\$8,002
Expenses paid from General Operations	\$50,736
Total Income	\$70,614
Expenses	
Bank Charges	\$245
Depreciation	\$7,192
Library Books	\$19,909
Magazines and Journals	\$23,876
Postage, Printing & Stationary	\$1,455
Salaries & Wages	\$22,087
Superannuation	\$2,211
Total Expenses	\$76,975
Deficit	\$6,361
Library Perpetual Fund	\$98,964
Total Library Fund (source of Common Fund Interest)	\$98,964

3. Building Fund

Total Building Fund (includes 2014 \$100,000 donation)	\$154,330
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David Palmer
CONVENER

Training Officer
Together Training Trainers

1. Pre college/ METRO

This part of my ministry has remained relatively constant. It involves many hours of talking, drinking coffee and praying. I am very thankful for our partnerships with 'AFES', 'MTS' and 'Geneva Push'. These relationships have resulted in quite a number of future gospel workers being identified. I praise God for all their efforts and long for more.

METRO also continues to be an encouragement. At present we have five funded trainees and 10 youthMETRO trainees. 2/3 of the current first year candidates are former METRO trainees. Please refer to the METRO report for more information or visit www.metrotraineeship.org.au

2. College

This year has seen some changes to this area of my ministry. I now no longer oversee the SFE program, or the teaching of related subjects. My ministry at the college consists of a time of discipleship with our candidates helping them to think through issues of training. My great desire in our discipleship time is to ensure that our candidate's spiritual formation continues.

3. Broader Church

I continue to meet with some of our most recent exit appointments. They are a quality group of men that are a blessing to their congregations. I am grateful for the continued opportunity that I have to work with them and for the mutual encouragement that comes from working with them. As a general rule those that have been exited to a team ministry have not seen the need to meet with me as often. This is entirely understandable. In addition to meeting with our recently exited students, I try to make contact with all our recent graduates at least once a month.

I generally do not run a lot of weekend training courses. I prefer to work with individual ministers asking them to identify specific ways I can help them in their task of being intentional disciple makers.

To that end, I visited all the presbyteries seeking to establish presbytery preaching groups and the running of a METRO recruiting event. A good number of presbyteries have agreed to these initiatives and it has been a genuine joy to minister with you. I am continuing to help a church implement their 'Embers to Flame' project. I pray that our time together has been helpful to them as we seek to develop healthy churches that are intentional about making disciples.

The Engage Conference, of which I am the chairperson, has continued to go from strength to strength. The 'Engage' Conference seeks to train our leaders to have Bible focused and gospel driven ministries. The best way to do this is to teach the Bible well and to model how to teach the Bible well. The Engage Conference features three main parts: strand groups, workshops and Bible talks. Strand groups are the heart of 'Engage'. In strand groups, delegates will learn to teach the Bible well. To learn more about 'Engage' please visit <http://engageyouthleaders.org.au/>

It has also been my privilege to run a 'Share your Faith' workshop. I have also run a Kids EE training weekend.

Nello Barbieri

FACULTY REPORT 2014

Introduction

The College is in good heart with an impressive intake of new students from a number of different denominations in 2014, including seven new candidates for the PCV. I wish to thank the members of the TEC, particularly Neil Chambers and David Palmer (conveners during the last year), for their warm encouragement of the Faculty and staff of the College. I feel privileged to serve in my role and I am especially grateful for such capable, enterprising and loyal fellow-workers. This also includes our part-time lecturers who play an invaluable role in our ministry.

I also remain deeply grateful for the continuing involvement in the college of Dr Douglas Milne and Dr Allan Harman, previous principals of the College, and for their helpful advice and friendship throughout the last year.

College Commencement and Conferral of Degrees

The 2014 academic year commenced on 7th March in the Werner Brodbeck Hall in the Assembly Hall building. Since the College is the servant of the General Assembly of Victoria, this seems to be a very appropriate place for graduation and commencement ceremonies. It is also a central location and makes the ceremony more accessible to the wider church.

We are grateful to the Scots Church for allowing us to use the Werner Brodbeck Hall as well as the upstairs Robert White Hall for the reception. Both facilities were filled to overflowing. Our guest speaker for the occasion was Hon. John Anderson AO, the former Deputy Prime Minister of Australia. Dr Mark Harding, the Dean of the ACT, and Dr David Barr, the Chairman of the ACT and former Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Western Sydney, were special guests and addressed the gathering.

Enrolments

The College began 2014 with 75 students (+22 on the previous period in 2013), of whom 21 were full-time and 54 part-time. There were 19 Presbyterian candidates for the ministry, of whom 14 were full-time and 5 part-time.

Faculty and Administrative Positions

The following administrative positions are held within the College – Rev Peter Hastie (Principal and Pastoral Dean), Dr Jared Hood (Academic Dean), Dr Tony Bird (Post-Graduate Dean), Dr Felix Chung (Pastoral Studies and Missions Co-ordinator/Projects Supervisor/Acting Coordinator of Postgraduate Studies), Rev Nello Barbieri, (Assembly Training Officer), Mrs Alicia Noble (Administrative Officer), Mrs Sophia Urbano (Registrar) and Mrs Heather Rickard (Librarian). The staff works harmoniously.

Teaching Staff

The following faculty members and adjunct staff were lecturing in the College throughout 2014:

Semester One – Rev Peter Hastie, Dr Tony Bird, Dr Jared Hood, Dr Felix Chung, Rev Nello Barbieri. Adjunct lecturers – Dr Andrew Moody, Dr Allan Harman, Dr Douglas Milne, Dr John Wilson, Dr Karl Hood, Ms Wendy Bytheway and Ms Gillian Asquith.

Semester Two – Rev Peter Hastie, Dr Tony Bird, Dr Felix Chung, Rev Nello Barbieri, Adjunct Lecturers – Dr Douglas Milne, Dr Allan Harman, Rev Mark Smith, Ms Gillian Asquith. MA Intensive – Dr Richard Belcher.

Teaching Program

The full program for the Graduate Diploma, Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology and Master of Divinity has run throughout the year. In addition, two short courses have been run in first semester and two in second semester. Dr Andrew Moody has taught an MA (Theol) subject in Semester 1 on 'Trinitarian Theology'. In Semester 2 Dr Richard Belcher, from RTS Charlotte, took an MA (Theol) Intensive in early August entitled, '*Preaching from the Book of Judges*'. This course generated significant interest. 24 students were enrolled, which was encouraging.

The College also offered short courses (Now Academic Studies in Theology Certificate) in the evenings. In first semester Dr Felix Chung taught the Chinese ASTC courses on New Testament Survey and Old Testament Survey. 15 and 13 people attended the courses respectively.

Dr Jared Hood also took a six-week short course in the Old Testament, *For King and Covenant*, as part of the Academic Studies in Theology (ASTC) program. This is part of a new certificate course that explored a number of prominent biblical ideas as an introduction to the message of the Bible.

The College also offered an MA (Theol) on Trinitarian theology during Semester 1 taught by Dr Andrew Moody.

The MA (Theol) Intensive in August, *Preaching the Book of Judges*, taught by Dr Richard Belcher from Reformed Theological Seminary, Charlotte.

In second semester Dr Chung taught a Chinese ASTC on 'Introduction to Christian History'. This course drew 12 students. The second ASTC Chinese course Introduction to Spiritual Formation will be commenced in September, 2014.

Mrs Gillian Asquith taught an evening short course on study skills for the ASTC program during July-August that was well-received. Student performance has improved noticeably as a result of these lectures.

Rev Peter Hastie also taught an evening short course on Christian worship as part of the ASTC program during September-October.

Post-Graduate Seminars

Several post-graduate seminars have been scheduled for 2014. The first one took place in Semester One, and two others have occurred in Semester Two. Bruce Riding (PhD studies) and Kevin Maxwell (MTh studies) will present their studies on 24th October, 2014 at the college.

Academic Issues

Throughout 2012-13 the staff addressed a number of issues that have the potential to extend the range and the accessibility of our academic program.

1. Intensives

The faculty are continuing to monitor the academic load for students who are

Presbyterian candidates. To this end, we are reviewing the subjects taught as intensives prior to the start of each academic year throughout a candidate's training. These intensives include such subjects as study skills, grammar and language, biblical theology, introduction to Greek language, polity, apologetics, Christian worship, introduction to Hebrew language, philosophy, ethics and Presbyterian Church History.

The intensives are taught in early February each year. The concentrated instruction period over two weeks require different assessment methods and we are reviewing these for 2015. The intensives are important to keep the academic load at a reasonable level.

2. Time-Table

We have continued the lecture program around three main days each week in semester 1, running from Tuesday to Thursday each week, although on Fridays we have had limited lectures as need arose. Lectures have also been held during evenings. Our rationale for introducing this change was to cut students' travel time during the week, and provide more space for uninterrupted reading, reflection and writing. This has helped students to better prepare for week-end ministry and has also given them more time to rest and recover after the demands of preaching and pastoral care. It has also afforded our part-time students more opportunities to undertake evening courses.

3. E-Learning

The Faculty rolled-out an E-learning program in 2014, the ASTC, for which students can receive HECS and Centrelink benefits to expand the range of services that we are able to offer to the wider church. This course is on a stable and user-friendly e-platform.

Spiritual Formation

The College Faculty believes that the study of Christian theology must issue in godliness, worship and mission. To this end, we have sought to integrate a range of activities within the academic programs to facilitate this process.

Chapel services are held daily where members of the College meet for prayer, praise, Bible reading and preaching. Staff and students have shared the preaching responsibility in semesters 1 and 2. We have also invited guest preachers from the Presbyterian Church, missionary agencies, international visitors, as well as speakers of special interest. We have had the State Moderator visit twice, the Clerk of the General Assembly on two occasions, representatives from Pioneers, MERF, visiting missionaries, Chaplains to the Defence Force, and local Presbyterian ministers.

Every Thursday the Chapel service is based around 10 minute video presentation from the mission field, entitled 'Dispatches From the Front', followed by 15 minutes of prayer, involving staff and students in prayer triplets. This has proved very popular. In first and second semesters we have had 17 episodes where we have visited churches in Bangladesh, West Africa and Ethiopia and Sudan. Our aim is to engender within students a passion to fulfil the Great Commission and a burden for a lost world and to remind them that our only hope is Christ.

Rev Nello Barbieri, also provides a personal pastoral dimension to the program as the Assembly Training Officer (see his separate report to the Assembly). In this

capacity he meets with students on an individual basis to mentor and prepare them for a life of Christian service in the ministry of the Word. He meets with Presbyterian candidates (19 in total) by arrangement, as well as a number of other students. He has also conducted training sessions for a number of our churches and plays a leading role in METRO and Presbyterian Youth.

Ministry Formation

One of the most important elements in developing a ministry mindset and identity is through the ACT subject of Ministry Formation, taught by the principal. This course explores the biblical and theological foundations of ministry, the idea of calling, the imperative of Gospel-preaching, and the ideals and ethics associated with pastoral office. This course has been popular with students.

In addition, Dr Felix Chung coordinates the supervised learning experience and field education program (SLE/SFE). He meets with candidates to discuss any issues and organise placements as well as maintaining contact with their supervisors. He also organises the trainer's meetings. Each year PTC arranges three trainer's meetings. The purpose of the meeting is for discussion, sharing, evaluation, learning and team building. All the trainers of both Guided Reading Program and SFE will be invited to join. In 2014, the trainer meetings is scheduled on the 17th Feb/21st Feb, the 2nd June/6th June, and the 3rd Nov/7th Nov.

The SLE program is a comprehensive experience that requires a first year candidate to remain in a congregation for two years where, in conjunction with regular meetings with his ministry supervisor, he undertakes a guided reading program that will initially focus on prayer and preaching over a two-year period. The reading program also includes written reflections that gauge the extent to which the readings have been understood and assimilated. The candidate is also required to preach six sermons that are reviewed by faculty over the two-year period.

The SLE program also requires all candidates to join in a pastoral care group that is led by a faculty member, 4 times a semester. The pastoral care group is designed to provide the student with mutual encouragement, support and stimulation as he prepares for a life of Christian ministry in the midst of his theological studies. The program also help him form some essential biblical convictions about God's plans and mission to the world as well as shape his understanding of the role he will play through the ministry of the gospel within and beyond the church.

The SFE is a more intensive form of the general SLE program. It requires a candidate to participate two fieldwork placements in church or ministry context under intense supervision in his 3rd and 4th year of study. The regular placement is integrated with ACTh units PC442/642 and PC443/643 requirements. The Summer block placement requires the student to work in a church under supervision for four weeks during December or January at the end of his third year of study. The ultimate aim of the SFE program is to ensure that supervising ministers play a greater role in the development of students, especially in the areas of prayer, preaching, training/discipling and pastoral strategy.

All Presbyterian candidates are required to attend the annual College mission where they gain first-hand experience in preaching, leading public worship and Bible study groups, children's ministry, evangelism, and home visitation. Dr Felix Chung has responsibility for the Mission program, which involved a six-month work-up. This year

Peter Hastie and Felix Chung led a nine-day mission to St Andrew's, Launceston. Nello Barbieri, the Training officer, also accompanied the team consisting of seventeen members.

The students engaged in evangelism in the city centre of Launceston and at a local High School, as well as delivering apologetic sessions to different sections of the congregation of St Andrew's. They also preached and led services at a variety of congregations such as West Tamar, Scottsdale and St Andrew's. The College is indebted to the co-operation of the Minister of St Andrew's, Rev Jason Summers, Mr Ian Partridge (Minister of West Tamar), Rev Greg Munro (Scottsdale), Mr Bob Church (Session Clerk, St Andrew's) and the many members of St Andrew's who extended us such warm hospitality.

Candidates' Wives

Throughout 2012-13, many of the wives of Presbyterian candidates have met regularly for Bible study, prayer, and mutual support. These meetings take place each month on a Monday evening and there are also meetings each month on Fridays held during the day.

The group holds two planning meetings each year at the beginning of each semester. On occasions, the group has invited guest speakers who have addressed them on important issues relating to their future ministries. The principal's wife attends these meetings to provide support and encouragement to the group.

Ministry Conference

At our annual Ministry Conference in March, 80 people attended the program. Rev Iain Murray gave four addresses on leading figures in Evangelicalism over the last 150 years including C H Spurgeon, Archibald Brown, Martyn Lloyd Jones, and John Macarthur. Simon Manchester and Murray Capill both spoke on various aspects of preaching and Jared Hood gave three addresses on preaching Christ from different parts of the Old Testament.

Australian College of Theology

Rev Peter Hastie and Dr Jared Hood attended the annual Consortium Conference in Sydney in June 2014. This is a valuable meeting that involves a significant interchange of information on the present higher education context, best practice in teaching and learning at a tertiary level, ACT academic data, business planning and cost of program change, board – faculty relationships and planning for strategic change in theological education. One of the most useful aspects of the conference is the extent to which we are able to engage with other educators in theological education on an informal basis.

Dr Felix Chung attended the ACT conference of Spiritual Formation in September, 2014.

Professional Development

Dr Tony Bird completed his study leave in Tyndale House, Cambridge, in Semester 2, 2013, and returned to lecturing at the College. He is completing a book on the subject of miracles in the New Testament. Dr Jared Hood has taken six months sabbatical leave in Semester 2 and is doing advanced studies in Aramaic and Ugaritic and is undertaking a study tour of Israel early in 2015 before he returns from leave. Dr Felix Chung had visited China and taught Evangelism and Missions in a

local Bible Seminary in December, 2013. That enriched his experiences of ministering in a mission field and in a cross-cultural environment. He also attended the National conference in Sydney 'Learning and Teaching Theology: The Way Ahead' in September, 2013 and the Mission Resources Conference in Melbourne in May, 2014. Heather Rickard, our Librarian, has attended a conference in Melbourne in July relating to theological libraries that was of real benefit to her.

Engagement with the Denomination

The College staff plays a significant role in the denomination. Apart from their work at the College, which is quite intense and demanding, they also maintain commitments in the wider church.

Rev Peter Hastie attends Bundoora Presbyterian Church and has preached in more than twenty different churches in both Melbourne and regional Victoria. He has attended the ordination and inductions of Peter Roberts (Cranbourne) and Matt Tegart (Gisborne). He participates in the Presbytery of Melbourne North (when available) and was present at the Ministers' Family Camp at Phillip Island. He is a member of the GAA College Committee. He also convenes the Victorian Sub-Committee of the Reception of Ministers' Committee and serves on the National Journal Committee. He has also contributed to the *Reformed Theological Review* (April 2014) and also written a chapter on the Doctrine of the Trinity in a book released by the GAA.

Dr Jared Hood serves the Assembly as Business Convener and is Interim Moderator for Essendon-Clifton Hill. Jared also preaches from time to time in a number of Presbyterian congregations.

Dr Felix Chung attends Canterbury Presbyterian Church and is a member of the Presbytery of Melbourne East. He has spoken at a number of Church Family Camps and has been invited to preach in more than ten Chinese and evangelical churches in and around Melbourne throughout the last year.

Dr Tony Bird plays an active role in Donvale Presbyterian Church. He preaches from time to time in various churches, is the faculty representative on the TEC, acting Academic Dean while Jared Hood is on sabbatical and is also a member of the Maroondah Presbytery.

Rev Nello Barbieri attends Bundoora Presbyterian Church, is a member of the Presbytery of Melbourne North. He has served there as the Moderator in 2013. He is in constant contact with ministers of the church and runs seminars and consultancies on a regular basis. He is a member of the Assembly Church-Planting Committee, and METRO.

From July to November both staff and students will be visiting around thirty Presbyterian churches throughout the state, at no cost to the local churches, to preach and to share with the churches the ministry of the College in the life of the denomination. We have been pleased by the high rate of take-up of our invitation to serve the churches of Victoria in this way. We wish to build solid partnerships within the denomination all around the state.

Engagement with Wider Church

Since October 2012 the principal has represented the College at the Geneva Push

Church-Planting Conference at Rooty Hill, NSW, the Wattle Park Gospel Chapel, various ACT meetings in Sydney, the CMI Conference in Singapore, Adelaide and Perth (as a speaker) and preached at the Australian Defence Force Reserve Chaplaincy Conference and Belgrave Heights Easter Convention. He continues to provide interviews for AP and is a Trustee of the Geneva Trust.

Dr Jared Hood serves as the editor of *The Reformed Theological Review*. Jared performs a vital role in maintaining theological direction and certainty within the church. He represents the College on the important Academic Committee of the ACT, which makes recommendations on curriculum and course design.

Dr Tony Bird is the ACT Moderator for postgraduate coursework units in New Testament and recently attended a one day training course for ACT Moderators in Sydney.

Dr Felix Chung continues his role as the Chinese moderator of the Department of Ministry and Practice of ACT, supervising the academic quality and teaching of the MP Program of all ACT Chinese affiliated colleges. He had published a book *Missions, Multiculturalism and Hermeneutics* in Chinese in 2013. His book has been well received by the Chinese theological students and colleges in Australia. He has also presented a paper on 'Learning and Teaching Theology in Chinese: The Way Ahead' in English in a National conference of the Sydney College of Divinity on 27th – 28th Sept, 2013. His paper is included in a section of the book *Learning and Teaching Theology: Some Ways Ahead* that will be published in September, 2014. He is also one of the panel speakers at the Mission Resource Conference in Melbourne, 2014.

Practical Training

Over the last year the Faculty have seen the need to strengthen the area of preaching within the College. We have concentrated our focus on preaching at our Ministry Conference in March 2014. We have also introduced a new course in preaching, *Preaching for Lifelong Learning*, and scheduled a special MA Intensive run by Dr Richard Belcher from RTS Charlotte entitled *Preaching from the Book of Judges*.

This year we have introduced the Guided Reading Program with all candidates. This program requires each candidate to read a book each year on the subjects of spiritual and ministry formation with their pastoral mentors. This year candidates have been required to read Richard Pratt's, *Pray With Your Eyes Open*. Candidates not only discuss the book with their mentors but also complete summaries and reflections of its contents.

Library

The Library is at the heart of the College's life and ministry. We are privileged to have a capable and diligent librarian in Heather Rickard. Students and ministers are making greater use of the library than ever before i.e. borrowing of books, use of reserve and reference books and accessing the libraries electronic services. (EBSCO, on-line catalogue, Bibliopedia, past exams etc).

Acquisitions in a number of areas have grown:

1. Monographs (Now over 28,000 items and growing at approximately 1,000-1,200 pa, all of which have to be catalogued and covered).
2. Continued growth of print/on-line Journals.

Two new journals: Journal for the Evangelical Study of the Old Testament, Journal of Creation (paid for by donation).

3. 'Allan Harman' Collection. This collection has been donated from Dr Harman's private library – the collection has grown on average around 24 books per week. It now has over 200 books.
4. Chinese books – we have continued to supplement this section with new additions and we have received some 200 second-hand books as well.
5. DVD collection.

However, there are a number of pressing issues facing the Library:

1. More shelving space is needed for general and reference collections, journals, and the Chinese collection. In addition, more desks are needed, lighting has to be improved and more furniture is required.

2. An additional staff member in the library is needed to cope with the load following the loss of the position of Library Technician. The Library Assistant covers all areas of processing books, DVDs etc. ready for the shelves. Processing includes: entering books on to security system, placing call numbers and barcodes on books, stamping of library ownership, covering books etc. Without an assistant, students have to wait much longer for books to be on the shelves and areas of the library like 'Open Reserve' are not being properly maintained.

3. The librarian is now required to cover two jobs instead of one, even though she only works three days per week. Occasionally she has come to work on the weekend (unpaid). The result is that many jobs are simply no longer done.

4. The technology in the library needs to be upgraded:

- The web page for the library and its resources is also in need of a major review and updating.
- We need to acquire additional databases for journals.
- E-books – these are available through a number of organizations. EBSCO, whom we already subscribe to offer many e-books. Subscription collections are available.
- A new photo copier is required. Students need an efficient copier with current software applications – the current copier is outmoded.

5. The budget provision for book purchases (currently \$20,000 pa) is a reduction on the 2012 figure of \$25,000. To ensure that the library remains viable as an ACT theological library, a more realistic figure would be \$30,000 pa. The current budget only serves to maintain our collection, and fails to further the development of key learning areas for students.

Similarly, the budget for library journals is inadequate and does not allow for the expansion of the journal collection. The collection must match the current courses available to students.

To organise the library storeroom, funds are needed to pay for archival boxes etc. for the care and protection of the many books, pamphlets, assembly minutes etc. A proper system of organisations needs to be implemented for the easy retrieval of information and the preservation of historical records.

John Paton Fellowship

The JPF is the fellowship of students at the College. Stephen McDonald is the president, Stephen Jones is the social events organiser, Daniel Dixon serves as treasurer and is the Prayer Co-ordinator. This group plays an important role in the life of the College, especially in organising social events for staff and students and for arranging support for missionaries that we support – Lazlo and Eva Mihalyi in Europe and Daniel and Courtney Denness in Nepal.

Need for Candidates

I have been impressed by the quality of the students that we have at the College, especially those who graduated in 2013. The College has done a fine job in preparing them for the ministry. However, there are simply not enough of them. We need many more.

One of the pressing needs facing the church is the need for candidates from within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. It should be of some concern that many of our students do not come from within the denomination.

Further, quite a few of the candidates that do come from within the denomination tend to come from some predictable sources. It would be good if we saw a rise in the number of Presbyterian students from Victoria and Tasmania coming to the College to study for the ministry as well as an increase in women students and those who wish to be better equipped within their congregations in ministries of the Word that supported the minister.

Jesus reminds us that the solution to this problem lies in persistent and effectual prayer: 'The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Therefore, ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into His harvest field'. (Matt 9:37, 38)

College Property

The library facilities have reached their current limit and the usage of the house at the rear of the property needs to be re-considered in the light of student accommodation needs. My hope is that in 2015 we will complete a strategic plan for the College as well as a master plan for the property.

During the June 2014 vacation the interior of the College was completely repainted and some of the bathrooms were renovated. We have also some new artwork to the College that depicts aspects of our spiritual heritage.

Thank you

I would like to record my thanks to the members of the TEC, especially both of the conveners over the last year, Rev Neil Chambers and David Palmer, for their warm support of me, the staff and students of the College. I am deeply grateful for their constant encouragement. I would also like to thank the staff in the Church Office for their helpfulness, both to me and to the College. I am particularly indebted to David Palmer, the moderator, Michael Ellison and John Wilson for their generous assistance.

The faculty and the staff at the College are a very able team who perform cheerfully at a high level, even though they often work under greater constraints than other institutions. They have a very high commitment to the church and to the mission that we have been charged with by the Assembly. I would like to record my special thanks

to our hard-working and friendly office staff, Mrs Alicia Noble and Mrs Sophia Urbano, and our librarian, Heather Rickard, who make it a pleasure for staff and students to come to the College.

Appendix

Candidate Attributes

Personal Qualities

1. Spiritual Maturity: Shows clear evidence of spiritual renewal and vitality in his relationship with God.

Positive signs

- Hungers for the word of God and regards it as his supreme authority
- Displays growth in Christian grace and obedience
- Quick to repent when aware of sin or immature behavior
- Admired by people for his Christ-likeness

Areas of concern

- Gives the impression that he 'knows it all'
- Lacks energy for God and appears lukewarm
- Does not aspire to 'press on'
- Conversation turns more to temporal than spiritual matters
- More ambitious for ministry success than walk with God

2. Prayerful: Believes that prayer is as essential to life as eating and drinking; realises that God's work will only go forward in prayer and that prayer is a non-negotiable of ministry.

Positive signs

- Has both a theology and practice of prayer
- Makes prayer a personal priority and plans for it
- Attends prayer meetings
- Prays for family and friends, fellow Christian workers and the lost

Areas of concern

- Has no plan for regular prayer
- Finds it difficult to pray in groups
- Finds it hard to pray with his wife (if married)

3. Attitude to Scripture: Believes that Scripture is the inerrant Word of God and that the whole of one's life –whether it relates to the physical, emotional, intellectual or spiritual realms – comes under the rule and authority of Scripture.

Positive signs

- Maintains a program for the daily reading and study of the Bible
- Meditates upon the Word and memorizes it
- Participates eagerly in Bible studies
- Allows Scripture to shape his life

Areas of Concern

- Has no appetite or plan for reading the Bible each day
- Does not meet with others to study the Word together
- Shows little evidence of Scripture memory or meditation

4. Integrity: Acts ethically in both public and private life and is trusted when acting alone; absolutely reliable in keeping promises; faithful in honouring commitments to the church.

Positive signs

- Fulfills all promises
- Reliable in fulfilling assignments
- Trustworthy in all financial dealings
- Honest and without guile
- Blameless in relations with women
- Respected by his employer

Areas of Concern

- Issues with truth-telling
- Makes excuses for failures and non-performance
- Unreliable with money
- Has unhealthy interest in making money
- Fails to pay debts
- Does not observe proper boundaries with women
- Compromises the truth for self-advantage
- Employer does not regard him as a reliable and honest worker in his current job

5. Humility: Recognises that all things are upheld by God's strength and exist for His glory; allows no room for self-glorying or self-interest.

Positive signs

- Attributes his accomplishments to the grace of God at work within him
- Accepts his own limitations and weaknesses
- Willing to accept difficulties and suffering as God's plan for his life
- Prepared to make unpopular decisions and hard choices

Areas of concern

- Need for recognition
- Always attributes blame to others
- Finds it hard to ask for and accept advice
- Overly defensive when receiving constructive feedback
- Always has to win
- Frequent conflicts with others

6. Evangelistic: Burdened by a desire to see God glorified in the salvation of the lost; seeks out opportunities to testify to Christ in a way that others can readily understand.

Positive signs

- Sharing Christ has become a way of life for him
- Grieves for the lost
- Prays for unbelievers and builds friendships with them
- Brings people to church

Areas of concern

- Uneasy in dealing with non-Christians
- Lacks non-Christian friends
- Has no desire or plan to reach non-Christians
- Unaware of issues that trouble the unchurched

7. Purposeful: Believes that God has a plan and purpose for his life that is synchronized with God's plan to redeem the world.

Positive signs

- Conscious that his life is not his own but should be spent in doing God's will
- His heart's desire is to be about God's business

Areas of concern

- Lacks sense of direction and urgency for his life
- Treats ministry more like a hobby/job than an all-consuming passion

8. Focused: Takes responsibility for his work seriously; disciplined in his use of time, resources and energy.

Positive signs

- Has a clear conception of goals
- Able to order his priorities within his plan
- Makes effective use of his time – punctual
- Can push to get a job done

Areas of concern

- Lacks a sense of mission
- Finds it hard to establish priorities
- Easily distracted from important tasks by trivia
- Lacks resolution in seeing a job through

9. Sense of Calling: Conscious that God has laid a special constraint upon him that cannot be ignored; believes he is compelled to set aside the honest activity in which he is presently engaged to undertake the crucial ministry of preaching the Gospel.

Positive signs

- Confident that God is re-directing his life
- Christ's mission of redemption has become all-consuming
- Has the obvious virtues, gifts and sense of divine constraint necessary for preaching the Gospel
- Others vouch for his gifts and suitability of character

Areas of concern

- Studying theology in preparation for ministry because mentors expect this of him
- Sees ministry as a job or career
- Has only a limited interest in evangelism
- Unconvinced of the terrible fate of the unsaved
- Complains about the possibility of sacrifice and hardship
- Desires to serve only in known and comfortable surrounds
- Unwilling to consider tough assignments
- Likes to feel important and is attracted to up-front activities

Relational Qualities

10. Emotional stability: Maintains a predictable, self-controlled and open response to people in all his dealings; not given to serious mood swings or a 'don't-come-near-me' attitude; can laugh at himself.

Positive signs

- Controlled when under constant stress
- Can deal with provocation in a calm manner
- Does not feel threatened when others disagree
- Does not expect people or situations to be perfect
- Sees opportunities when others see only problems
- Rational and measured in crisis

Areas of Concern

- Downcast when facing opposition
- Irritated and impatient when things don't work out
- Angry and confrontational with people who get in his way
- Prone to temper tantrums over disappointments
- Explodes over small interruptions or unexpected demands

11. Family Life: Demonstrates a deep love and devotion to his wife; gladly involves her in ministry and is protective of his children.

Positive signs

- Shows affection for his wife
- Spends appropriate time with children
- Shares with his family in reading Scripture and prayer
- Encourages wife to exercise her spiritual gifts

Areas of Concern

- Puts church work and affairs continually before his wife and children
- Shows undue interest in other women
- Criticizes his wife and children to others

12. Sensitivity: Constantly aware of the needs and feelings of other people and shows genuine sympathy for the situations and predicaments they find themselves in. Genuinely cares for the 'little' people in the community who are overlooked and disregarded by others.

Positive signs

- Shows genuine empathy for the disappointments and grief of others
- Always ready to listen with a non-judgmental spirit
- Quick to assist those in the church and beyond when trouble strikes
- Patient with awkward and demanding people
- Shows common courtesies and respect to all

Areas of Concern

- Sees no need to know people on a personal basis
- Reluctant to visit people in their homes, hospital or at work
- Always suspicious of people in need
- People must prove themselves first before he helps them
- Dominates conversations
- Unwilling to listen to other's stories
- Gravitates to people with his own interests and avoids needy individuals
- Passes people on to others even when he can help them himself
- Shuts people out of conversations

13. Warmth: Has an open and welcoming approach to others that indicates that he is glad to see people and help them.

Positive signs

- Secure in his dealings with people and puts them at immediate ease.
- Shows that he is glad to meet people and know them
- Visits people and shows he is concerned for their welfare
- Makes a point of learning people's names

Areas of concern

- Brusque in manner
- Always seems busy and unapproachable
- Unaware of body language
- Ignores people and does not smile
- Fails to greet people with an attitude of gladness
- Cuts people off in conversation
- Fails to introduce people to others
- Avoids strangers when they seem alone and ill-at-ease

14. Adaptability: Realizes that change is a constant factor of life and that every community is different. He is comfortable, therefore, in facing change and the stresses that it entails.

Positive Signs

- Understands that flexibility on many issues is necessary
- Discerns the difference between issues of principle and matters of indifference
- Adapts to new circumstances without difficulty
- Anticipates setbacks as short-term problems to be overcome

- Attempts to see merit in other proposals; changes course if necessary

Areas of Concern

- Hard, rigid and resistant to different approaches
- Resists any proposals to initiate change
- Discourages any attempts at new ministry plans
- Thinks that there is only one way to do things
- Intolerant of other cultures, customs and foods

Vocational Qualities

15. Thirst for Learning: Realizes that growing in knowledge is essential to understanding problems and solutions. Keen to grasp new insights and use them to serve others.

Positive signs

- Seeks personal development through a life-long study program
- Uses new insights in preaching, worship, discipleship training, group activities and missional activities
- Sees every activity in ministry as a learning experience and an opportunity for self-improvement

Areas of Concern

- Thinks that theological college signals the end of the learning experience
- Has no program of reading beyond sermon preparation
- Holds a narrow view of the world that borders on parochialism
- Sees no need to attend conferences and other learning experiences

16. Missional: Realises that the Gospel is the only hope for the human race and is resolved, both as an individual and as a church leader, to reach people of every race, culture and religious orientation and share it with them.

Positive signs

- Burdened with a desire to befriend the unreached and to share the Gospel with them as an expression of that friendship
- Willing to engage in good deeds and assist the local community as an act of kindness and goodwill
- Shows hospitality to neighbours and other unchurched people
- Initiates plans for church outreach and motivates others to join in

Areas of Concern

- Focused exclusively on in-house church activities with no inclination to reach out
- Sees no point in mercy ministry to outsiders
- Unconcerned about church missionaries
- Shows no interest in the progress of the Gospel in other countries
- Views attempts to reach followers of other religions with the Gospel as a waste of time

17. Teaching: Understands the educational responsibility of the church to instruct its members in the whole counsel of God so that they can grow in Christ-likeness and be ready to engage in some form of Christian service to others.

Positive signs

- Grasps the importance of developing a long-range expository ministry
- Evidences a knowledge of Scripture that would form the foundation of a strong teaching ministry
- Shows a desire to train others in Christian discipleship

Areas of Concern

- Has a purely intellectual interest in theology
- Has a limited knowledge of theology
- Shows no real improvement in the quality of his sermons
- Displays little grasp of pastoral strategy and the connection between the knowledge of the truth, godliness, good deeds and witness

18. Preaching: Realises that God has ordained the preaching of the Word as the means through which hearers are saved. Thus the preaching of the Gospel is a means of grace and represents the power of God to transform the sinner's life.

Positive signs

- Believes that preaching the Word is indispensable to the conversion of sinners and the growth of the church
- Preaches the Word in a confident and authoritative manner
- Grounds sermons in Scripture with contemporary application
- Reminds hearers of how Christ is the answer to their needs and problems

Areas for concern

- Sermons focus more on the preacher than on God
- Leaves the hearers' consciences untouched
- Says little about how Christ renews, restores and transforms us

- Tends to scold the congregation and emphasize duty
- Breaches confidences in public and fills sermons with self-interested illustrations
- Preaches doctrine but provides little relevant application

19. Leading in Worship: Leads the congregation week by week in engaging with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in prayer, song, Scripture-reading, and preaching in a spirit of joy, reverence and expectancy.

Positive signs

- Creates the awareness that the congregation is meeting with the living God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit
- Consistently well-prepared and thoughtful in his prayers and comments
- Conveys a sense of intimacy in prayer
- Reads the Bible clearly, confidently and with meaning.
- Uses the vocabulary of the Bible throughout the service
- Sings heartily and in tune
- Has good articulation and tone of voice
- Projects a range of different and appropriate emotions that are consistent with the subject-matter of the songs, prayers, Scripture-reading and announcements

Areas of concern

- Prayers show little imagination or thought
- Fails to convey the sense that God is present
- Rambles in his comments
- Prayers show little evidence of Scriptural content or direction
- Prayers of intercession give the impression of spiritual shopping-lists
- Unable to appreciate the place of the sacraments

20. Leading: Capable of articulating God's plan for the church in the particular context in which it is located; outlines God's mission and motivates people to embrace it by using their special gifts from God.

Positive signs

- Inspires and encourages church members to embrace God's plan to share the Gospel with one another through mutual encouragement and with the wider world by making friends with people and sharing Christ with them
- Brings zeal and energy to his tasks

- Trains and enables others to engage in ministry
- Maintains focus on priorities
- Motivates with enthusiasm and confidence for the God-given task

Areas of concern

- Uncertain about role and mission of the church and his place in it
- Lacks confidence in his gifts
- Shies away from conflict
- Unwilling to step-up in difficult situations
- Dominates others
- Wants the lime-light

21. Managing: Works out a plan and allocation of resources for undertaking the various ministries of the church that is easy to follow and can be adjusted and assessed as time goes on.

Positive signs

- Happy to encourage others to develop their spiritual gifts and share in ministry
- Sets out realistic goals for ministry that build confidence and morale within the congregation
- Humble and unafraid to engage in self-critique
- Evaluates the plan in a way that is non-threatening to others

Areas for concern

- Uncertain of God's plan for the church
- Unable to formulate a simple plan in even one aspect of the church's ministry
- Refuses to delegate responsibilities and tasks to others
- Sees no value in training others

22. Training: Understands the importance of selecting and training mature and gifted disciples who can play a major role in the eldership of the congregation and in the leadership of specific ministries of the church.

Positive signs

- Embodies all the characteristics of a mature disciple and exhibits the ministry skills that he wants to develop in others
- Knows and understands the process of bringing believers to maturity in Christ
- Motivates people to become involved in training programs
- Encourages and corrects in a way that builds and strengthens the individual

Areas of concern

- Feels he needs to do everything himself
- Shows an unwillingness to trust others to take responsibility
- Gives people responsibility before they are ready
- Frequently overlooks other people's potential
- Keeps ministry opportunities tightly confined to his close friends
- Fails to give people feedback or show appreciation for assignments well done

23. Optimism: Always confident that grace will triumph over sin – Saul can become Paul; Levi can become Matthew. Convinced that all God's plans for us in Christ will be fulfilled – therefore despite our present struggles and setbacks we should be optimistic that God's purpose in our lives and the world will ultimately triumph.

Positive signs

- Remains confident that God's promises will be fulfilled.
- Believes that Christ's resurrection power can transform our lives and give us a completely fresh start
- Convinced that God is able to do far more than we could ever ask or imagine
- Knows that God can keep us pure and undefiled in the midst of temptation
- Persuaded that no one is beyond hope

Areas of concern

- Sees no real transformation in his own life and so believes it can't happen in the lives of others
- Believes more in the destructive and corrupting power of sin than in the transforming power of grace

24. Endurance: Processes suffering for the Gospel within the context of our fellowship with Christ in His own sufferings and ultimate victory.

Positive signs

- Understands that following Christ involves entering into His weakness, suffering and apparent 'lack of success'
- Prepared to live in the shadows of hardship and suffering in view of the prospect of the glory to be revealed
- Has come to terms with the fact that helplessness and dependence are part of the normal Christian life
- Accepts living with the ambiguities of suffering that face the person of faith

Areas of concern

- Sees success, victory and happiness as the natural results of Christian obedience
- Demands complete and rational answers for all the pain and trial involved in Christian life and ministry
- Judges his own and the ministry of others by the outward signs of success – money and numbers
- Gives up easily in the midst of trials and pressures

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Peter Hastie
PRINCIPAL

Theological Education Committee

General Operations

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income:

General Mission Program	30,920
Bequests	100,667
Donations & Gifts	130
Common Fund Interest	230,996
Rental Income	87,551
Sundry Income	1,518
Metro Contribution - Training Officer	30,000
Bookshop Trading Profit	8,002
Tuition Fees	395,002
Profit/(Loss) on sale of assets	(1,751)
Total Income	<u>883,034</u>

Expenditure:

Personnel	437,833
Property	48,979
Office	51,681
Library	50,736
Training Officer	98,822
Accommodation Units Expenses	39,115
PTC Media Expenses	11,894
General Expenses	87,166
Total Expenditure	<u>826,226</u>

Surplus on General Operations

56,808

Movements in Funds

Balance 1/7/13	1,469,671
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	56,808
Add Back Depreciation	81,564
(Increase)/Decrease in Current Assets	6,228
Assets Purchased (exc. Capital fund items)	(6,690)
Increase/(Decrease) in Current Liabilities	88,437
Increase/(Decrease) in Non-Current Liabilities	(65,523)

Balance 30/6/14

1,630,493

Perpetual Funds

Balance 30/6/14

965,159

Theological Education Committee

Specific Trust Accounts

Year Ended 30th June 2014

Statement of Income & Expenditure

	<u>Building Fund</u>	<u>Bursary Trusts</u>	<u>Diaconal</u>	<u>Fernside Trust</u>	<u>Library Trusts</u>	<u>Mission Course</u>	<u>Prizes Trusts</u>	<u>Other Trusts</u>
Income:								
Bequests		19,385						
Donations & Gifts	117,874	22,104	-	-	8,002	-	500	-
General Mission Program		57,826						
Common Fund Interest	10,068	81,935	17,036	136,362	11,876	1,396	15,024	27,432
Total Income	127,942	181,250	17,036	136,362	19,878	1,396	15,524	27,432
Expenditure:								
Bursaries	-	19,800	2,885	-	-	-	-	-
Property Expenses	38,022	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Prizes	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,491	-
Manse Allowances	-	-	-	100,240	-	-	-	-
Missions Lecturer Stipend	-	-	-	-	-	24,110	-	-
Scholarships	-	160,140	-	-	-	-	-	-
Library Expenses	-	-	-	-	76,976	-	-	-
Expenses paid from General Fund	-	-	-	-	(50,736)	-	-	-
Total Expenditure	38,022	179,940	2,885	100,240	26,240	24,110	10,491	0
Surplus on Specific Trusts	89,921	1,310	14,151	36,122	(6,362)	(22,714)	5,033	27,432
Movements in Funds								
Balance 1/7/13	71,140	134,468	137,011	-	-	22,714	91,412	172,193
Plus Surplus/(Deficit)	89,921	1,310	14,151	36,122	(6,362)	(22,714)	5,033	27,432
Plus Decrease (Increase) in Bank	(844)	-	-	-	(830)	-	-	-
Add back depreciation	-	-	-	-	7,192	-	-	-
Bequest to Perpetual Transfer		(19,385)						
		12,066						(12,066)
Index Perpetual Balances	-	-	-	(32,938)	-	-	-	-
Balance 30/6/14	160,216	128,460	151,163	3,184	-	-	96,446	187,558

Perpetual Funds

	<u>Bursary Trusts</u>	<u>Fernside Trust</u>	<u>Library Trusts</u>	<u>Prizes Trusts</u>	<u>Miscella- neous Trusts</u>
Balance 30/6/14	557,682	1,157,211	98,964	30,515	52,225

TRUSTS CORPORATION (Min. 30)

Introduction

The Trusts Corporation was formed by resolution of the General Assembly having been empowered to do so by the Parliament of the State of Victoria which enacted the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890. The main functions of the Trusts Corporation are to:

- Hold in trust the property, including money, belonging to the Church and also to hold congregational property where it has been so requested by the relevant congregation.
- Establish a register of Trustees of Congregations.
- Facilitate the conveyance and transfer of church property.

The Trusts Corporation is a corporate body and must act in accordance with the prevailing legislation including the provisions of the Trustee Act (Victoria) 1958 and the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890. The legislation sets out the manner in which trustees in general and the Trusts Corporation in particular must act. Responsibilities and obligations of the Trusts Corporation include:

- Exercising care, diligence and skill in investing funds held in trust.
- Exercising its powers in the best interests of all present and future beneficiaries of each trust.
- Acting impartially towards beneficiaries and between different classes of beneficiaries.

Under the 1890 Act (as amended) the Trusts Corporation may at its discretion invest funds either separately or in a Common Fund.

With very few exceptions, the Trusts Corporation does not have authority over the use of the funds, except to see that the funds are expended consistently with the intended purpose. It is the committees of the General Assembly and the congregations and presbyteries which have the power to authorise expenditure in accordance with the terms of the trust. The Trusts Corporation is responsible to manage and invest the funds which it holds in trust for the benefit of these other bodies.

Membership of the Trusts Corporation

The members of the Board of Investment and Finance form the membership of the Trusts Corporation.

Annual Result

The Trusts Corporation is pleased to be able to report that the Church's financial assets have grown in the past year. Common Fund Investments have yielded an income of \$3.9 million after operating costs, and they have increased in value by a further \$5.8 million. This presents an overall return of 12.5%. A total of \$4.5 million was distributed to church committees, groups and congregations.

Investment Funds Held

The **funds held** by the Trusts Corporation include:

- i) Trust funds held on behalf of the General Assembly and its Committees.
- ii) Trust Funds held on behalf of Congregations and PWMU.
- iii) Sites Reserve Funds.

- iv) Amounts held in relation to the Capital Fund.
- v) Deposits held on behalf of Congregations.
- vi) The Common Fund Reserve.
- vii) The Common Fund Income Suspense Account.

Broadly speaking, **investment of these funds** is channelled in one of two ways at the discretion of the Trusts Corporation under the powers given to it by the 1890 Act (as amended). Funds may be either:

- a) separately invested on behalf of each individual trust. Each trust receives the income and capital gains or losses which arise from the investment of the funds which are made in the name of the trust, or;
- b) invested in the Common Fund. These funds are grouped together and invested as a whole. It is not possible to identify individual investments relating to each trust. The Trusts Corporation in accordance with the 1890 Act (as amended 1965) determines the interest rate to be applied to each different type of fund. Capital gains and losses are borne by the Common Fund and are not charged against the individual trust balances.

The Common Fund

The Common Fund is a convenient mechanism for investing smaller sums collectively. By grouping them together an appropriate diversification of investment can be achieved to reduce the risk, while maximising income potential through having larger sums to invest.

Included in the Common Fund is a reserve account to which any capital gains and losses are charged. This is called the Common Fund Reserve. The Common Fund Reserve provides a level of protection for the funds invested in the Common Fund against the loss of capital in times when the investment market experiences a downturn. The Common Fund Reserve also generates additional income which can be distributed across the funds which are invested in the Common Fund.

The Common Fund also includes the Income Suspense Account which represents the balance of income not yet distributed. In accordance with section 14B of the Presbyterian Trusts Act 1890, the amount in the Income Suspense Account can only be distributed to those committees and trusts which have funds invested in the Common Fund. Investment returns generated by the Common Fund are paid into the Income Suspense Account and then distributed as interest to various trusts at rates determined by the Trusts Corporation. Funds invested in the Common Fund are not entitled to capital gains (or losses).

Separate Investments

Funds in the hands of the Trusts Corporation will generally be invested separately where the funds are sufficiently large. The level which has been established in relation to Sites Reserve balances is \$1,000,000. Sites Reserve balances exceeding this figure will be invested separately. For other funds, a variety of factors are considered in determining whether to invest the funds separately.

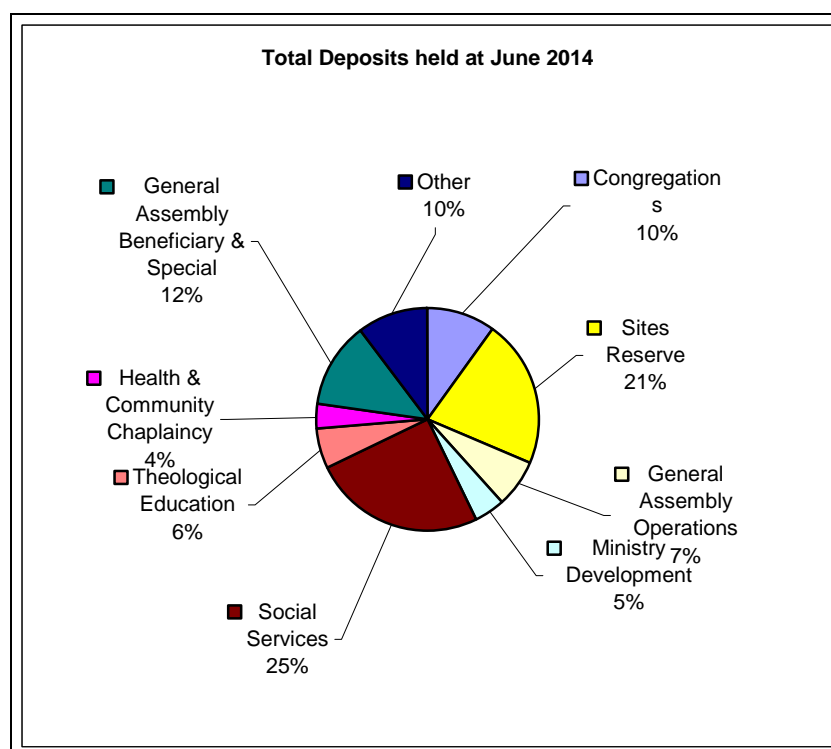
Funds Held on Behalf of Committees, Congregations and Other Church Bodies

The investments which are managed for the benefit of the Committees of the Assembly and other church bodies are shown in the table below. These represent the funds available to the church for the support of its ministry. The Assembly has allocated the funds to each committee and given the committees authority to spend

the funds within the specific purposes relevant to each trust and in accordance with the committee's regulations.

	June 13	Balance as at 30 June 2014				
	Total Invested	Common Fund	Separate Investments	Total Funds Invested	% of Total	% Change
Social Services	18,964,211	460,700	21,063,946	21,524,647	25%	14%
Sites Reserve	17,553,855	10,182,536	8,370,043	18,552,578	21%	6%
GA - Beneficiary & Special	9,905,019	8,940,966	1,770,408	10,711,374	12%	8%
Congregations	8,368,567	702,048	7,945,593	8,647,640	10%	3%
General Assembly Operations	6,132,767	5,844,118	-	5,844,118	7%	-5%
Theological Education	4,908,043	5,219,276	-	5,219,276	6%	6%
Ministry Development	4,335,662	3,950,838	-	3,950,838	5%	-9%
Health & Community Chaplaincy	2,895,483	1,632,575	1,437,816	3,070,391	4%	6%
Church Planting	2,173,339	2,212,697	-	2,212,697	3%	2%
Maintenance of the Ministry	1,998,502	2,082,665	-	2,082,665	2%	4%
Christian Education & Nurture	1,295,070	1,338,484	-	1,338,484	2%	3%
APWM (Victoria)	860,798	934,163	-	934,163	1%	9%
METRO	873,724	862,900	-	862,900	1%	-1%
PWMU	685,011	688,092	-	688,092	1%	0%
Presbyterian Youth in Victoria	414,495	416,950	-	416,950	0%	1%
Church & Nation	361,478	380,341	-	380,341	0%	5%
State News	51,965	55,685	-	55,685	0%	7%
Total Deposits	81,777,989	45,905,033	40,587,806	86,492,839	100%	5.4%

The chart below shows the relative percentages of funds which are allocated to the various ministries and bodies of the church. The allocation of funds in this way is generally determined by the purposes of the underlying trusts and bequests as well as the decisions of the Assembly where it has discretion to do so. The responsibility of the Trusts Corporation is to manage and invest these funds. It has no power to redistribute or allocate these funds to other purposes within the church. Nor does the Trusts Corporation have the power to determine the ways in which the funds are applied by the committees, except to ensure that funds are spent within the terms of the relevant trusts.



Annual Results

The annual interest rates paid on amounts invested in the Common Fund for the year ended 30 June 2014 were:

Common Fund interest rates paid on funds

Perpetual and Specific Trusts	12%
General Trusts – first \$600,000	12%
General Trusts - balance above \$600,000	4%
Sites Reserve accounts and Deposits - first \$600,000	8%
Sites Reserve accounts and Deposits - balance above \$600,000	5%

The Common Fund Reserve increased from \$27,000,495 to \$32,602,543 during the year primarily as a result of realised and unrealised capital gains on investments.

The Common Fund Balance is comprised of the following amounts:

Common Fund	\$
Balance of Trusts and Committee Funds	45,905,033
Income Suspense Account	4,145,041
Common Fund Reserve	32,602,543
Total Common Fund	82,652,617

Common Fund Movements	\$
Opening Balance 1 July 2013	77,705,402
Net Income	3,889,413
Capital Gains/(Losses)	5,834,889
	9,724,302
Distributions	(4,486,868)
Decrease in Committee & Other Funds	(290,219)
Closing Balance 30 June 2014	82,652,617

The investment markets performed well in the year to June 2014 with the ASX 300 accumulation index gaining 17% (2013 22%). The performance of the Common Fund was approximately 12% (2013 gain of 15%) for the year. This is less than the performance of the equity markets as a result of the portfolio weightings which reduce the risk in the portfolio.

The total funds invested by the Trusts Corporation at 30 June 2014 was \$123,240,422 (2013 \$113,288,139) which is comprised of the Common Fund balance plus the Separate Investments.

The Trusts Corporation will be happy to answer questions on the accounts at the Assembly. Because of the amount of detail in the accounts, it would appreciate notice being given so that accurate and full answers can be provided.

Investment Committee

The Trusts Corporation is responsible for ensuring that the investment of funds is prudent, and to periodically review the investment objectives and performance. Its Investment Committee has met regularly throughout the year with our financial advisers and has continued to monitor the Trusts Corporation's investment portfolio in the light of our advisers' recommendations.

We work with appropriate asset allocation benchmarks and targets against which investment performance can be measured. We continue to give careful attention to maintaining and following ethical investment guidelines. Following the revision of the asset allocation targets which was reported last year, the adjustments to the portfolio were made over a number of months. The position of the Common Fund at 30 June is reflected in the table below.

Asset Classes	Portfolio Benchmar % k % Range %
Australian Equities	42.240.0 37.5-42.5
International Equities	12.910.0 9.0-11.0
Fixed Interest Securities	38.345.0 42.5-47.5
Cash	6.75.0 3.0-7.0
TOTAL	100.0100.0

While the portfolio is currently overweight in equities this is considered to be appropriate in light of current market conditions.

The default asset allocation for separately invested funds is 70% of funds in growth assets (equities) and the balance in cash and fixed interest securities.

Bequests

The Trusts Corporation received the following bequest during the year.

Bequest from	Amount	Purpose
Robert Keith Dudley	\$19,385	Assisting in education of student ministers of the church – allocated to the TEC Bursary fund
Elvira Mary Pinches	\$100,667	Presbyterian Theological College
Miriam Alberta Bone	\$82,326	APWM for the benefit of work in Australia

Kirkbrae

The Trusts Corporation is registered as the entity which holds the relevant government registrations and licences on behalf of the church in relation to Kirkbrae. We have been advised that the members of the Trusts Corporation could be considered to be 'directors' under certain civil legislation. This brings with it obligations which if not adequately fulfilled could lead to personal liability of the 'directors'. The Social Services Committee has been charged with the responsibility for the oversight of all social service activities sanctioned by the Assembly which includes Kirkbrae. There is no reason to suggest that the Social Services Committee is not adequately fulfilling its responsibility to the Assembly. However the Trusts Corporation has an obligation under the civil law to exercise a level of oversight and diligence in the administration of Kirkbrae. The Trusts Corporation has been working with the Social Services Committee to develop procedures which enable both bodies to fulfil their obligations in an effective manner without adding undue overheads to the operation.

Scots' Church Properties Trust

In view of the fact that the situation in relation to the Scots' Church Properties Trust is subject to frequent changes, it is the intention of the Trusts Corporation to provide an up to date report on these matters in a supplementary report closer to the time of the Assembly.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN

TRUSTS CORPORATION Supplementary Report

SCOTS' CHURCH PROPERTIES TRUST

For many years there have been differences between the Scots' Church Properties Trust (SCPT) Trustees and the Trusts Corporation (representing the interests of the PCV) over the interpretation of the Scots Church Trust Deed. More recently, the implementation of the sale of Assembly Hall to the SCPT which the Assembly agreed to in December 2001, has led to further differences. The Trusts Corporation has reported to the Assembly on these matters a number of times over recent years.

For those not familiar with the background, we refer you to the following reports and minutes.

- May 2011 Commission - Minute 14, Blue Book page 13; Report page 84

- October 2011 Assembly – Minute 26. BB p 110, Minute 63 BB p 129; Report BB p 289
- May 2012 Commission – Minute 13 BB p10; Report BB p 74
- October 2012 Assembly – Minute 26 BB p 84; Report BB p 277
- October 2013 Assembly – Minute 32 BB p 94; Report BB p 363

As reported to the Assembly in October 2013, the matter is now before the Supreme Court of Victoria (the Court). Justice Michael Sifris has been assigned to hear the case. Under these circumstances the Trusts Corporation is obliged to refrain from public comment about the proceedings.

Since reporting to the Assembly last year, the parties have appeared before the Court on four occasions seeking directions on matters relating to the administration of the case and preparations for trial. Among other things, the Court has directed that:

- The SCPT Trustees file a defence
- A formal mediation be held
- There be discovery of various documents and records
- The matter be set down for trial on 1 December 2014
- Dr Douglas Sherman be appointed to represent the interest of the members of the Board of Management of Scots Church in the proceedings and be joined as a party to the proceedings for that purpose

The defence was filed on 18 December 2013.

Mediation

The formal mediation ordered by the Court was held on 23 June 2014 under the Hon Peter Heerey QC, a retired federal court judge. While Dr Sherman had not been joined to the proceedings at that time, he was invited to attend the mediation. Both Dr Sherman and Dr Elizabeth Lewis AM attended the mediation as representatives of the Scots Board of Management.

This was the third attempt to resolve the matter through mediation. The mediation was unsuccessful.

Settlement Proposal

Following the mediation, the Trusts Corporation was encouraged to submit a written settlement proposal to the SCPT Trustees on the understanding that the Trustees would respond within 7 days. A comprehensive and very detailed settlement proposal was put to the Trustees on 8 July 2014 in a determined effort to avoid the need to pursue the matter further in the Court. At the time of writing this report no response to the proposal has been received from the Trustees. The proposal was conditional on a number of matters which were within specific time constraints. On August 11 the first of those dates passed so the proposal has technically lapsed.

The mediation and subsequent settlement proposal are by nature confidential and on a “without prejudice” basis. It is inappropriate to discuss the details further.

The Scots' Church Board of Management

There is no complaint or claim against the Board of Management. Arising from the terms of the Scots Church Trust Deed, it is evident that the Board of Management is and will continue to be effected by any decision the Court may make about administration of the trusts. In joining the Board to the proceeding, they are afforded the opportunity to be heard by the Court and to ensure that the interests of the Board of Management, representing the congregation, are appropriately considered in any resolution of the dispute with the SCPT Trustees. It must be remembered that the Board of Management also receives distributions from the SCPT, as does the PCV for church extension and home missions.

Towards a resolution

The Trusts Corporation has gone to considerable lengths to try and resolve this matter prior to trial. Regrettably those efforts have not led to any substantial agreement and it appears that, despite our best efforts, the matter will only be resolved by the Court which is due to hear the matter before the end of this year.

The Trusts Corporation looks forward to the resolution of this matter so that a sound and enduring footing can be established for the future work and witness of the gospel through home missions and church extension.

Edward de Zilwa
CHAIRMAN

COMMUNICATION 1 (Min. 77)

From: Presbyterian Inland Mission Re: The work of the PIM

The Presbyterian Inland Mission is YOUR ministry.

PIM is a part of the ministry of the Presbyterian Church of Australia, and cannot be viewed as a sideline to our national mission. It is a means whereby we seek to faithfully carry out our responsibility to take the glorious Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ to all parts of our nation including those parts beyond the furthest fence.

In Psalm 72:18-19 we read, *"Praise be to the Lord God, the God of Israel, who alone does marvelous deeds. Praise be to his glorious name forever; may the whole earth be filled with his glory. Amen and Amen"*.

It is our heart's desire as God's people that the glory of the Lord not only fill our own existence as local groups of believers, but that it fill the whole of the world, and so we are to have a prayerful interest and concern for mission overseas, throughout our land and locally – not one of those three, but all of them – the WHOLE earth!

It is our privilege to share with you again some of the 'marvelous deeds' which the Lord is doing in Inland and remote Australia.

God has given us an excellent team of patrol and church workers. The work is advancing in terms of the number of padres deployed and the geographical spread of their labours. Of the current 20 PIM ministries (14 Patrols and 6 congregations) it is anticipated that there will be PIM work conducted in 16 of them in 2014 (80% coverage). Admittedly some of these will be 'toes in the water' but it is encouraging to see the slow but steady development of the PIM, in the wake of the very successful Centenary Year.

These ministries are ably supported by our Office Manager, Michael Timmins and our Secretary/Projects Officer, Erica Erasmus.

We encourage you to regularly visit the PIM web site for up to date information on each of our ministries.

We would particularly like you to rejoice with us in one long-term project which the Lord has brought into action in the last year. We are delighted to report that the Alice Springs Presbyterian Church commenced worship in 2013. This was the culmination of more than six years of planning, and we know that some have prayed for this eventuality for more than 25 years. This is the first Presbyterian Church to ever be established in the Red Centre.

We need to understand that in vast areas of inland and outback Australia today quite simply Christ is not known and there is no organised church or Christian presence. PIM has only started what it should do, but without a deepening partnership with other churches we will never fulfil our part of God's gospel task.

Over 100 years ago John Flynn put it far better than we can when he said: *"...I am convinced that never can health be manifest fully in our home congregations until faithfulness marks our frontier policy. Difficulties of a serious nature will arise in shoals in every fertile mind. To each one a reply can only be made in words already familiar:- Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers; Pray for powers equal to your tasks."*

PIM invites you to consider how your congregation or missions group could partner with us in prayer, perhaps adopting a patrol team as your focus and with finances. We thank those who already partner with us and ask that you keep going or even increase your support.

Robert Duncanson
CONVENER

COMMUNICATION 2 (Min. 121)

From: Rev Stuart Bonnington, Clerk of the Assembly of the PCWA
Re: thanks for grants for church planting in W.A.

Stuart Bonnington
Clerk of Assembly PCWA

John P Wilson
Clerk of Assembly PCV

1 April 2014

Dear John

Warm greetings to you in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Thank you for your letter of 20 February 2014 advising of the transfer of \$10,000 for the purpose of church planting in WA and of two subsequent grants of the same amount and for the same purpose.

I note that the PCV General Assembly requires in due time a report concerning how this grant has been applied.

We sincerely appreciate this generous gesture of fellowship in the gospel of our Lord and Saviour.

Regards

Rev Stuart Bonnington
Clerk of Assembly
66 Stortford Road
Southern River WA 6110
08 9398 1304 | 0423 257 645
email: melbonn@bigpond.com
cc. Mr G. Muskett, Rev. Dr S Woods Convener MEC, Rev. K. Rathbone Clerk
Presbytery of WA

COMMUNICATION 3 (Min. 49)

**From: Very Rev Robert Benn, Convener, GAA Relationships with
Other Churches Committee
Re: World Reformed Fellowship**

In 2004 the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia made the decision to become a member of the World Reformed Fellowship.

Why?

Here's a brief history lesson.

Prior to 1977 our church was a member of the World Council of Churches. Very soon, in our post-77 church, we moved away from the WCC and became a member of a much better World Alliance of Reformed Churches. But before long we were not happy with the direction that WARC was taking, so we became members of the Reformed Ecumenical Council, and as we had done before we paid our dues, and then became increasingly disillusioned!

In 2004 following a meeting of the REC in Jogjakarta Indonesia, our General Assembly called it a day and we ceased to be a member of the REC.

Déjà vu!

What goes wrong with these International Christian Councils, such that we quit?

During the middle of the 20th century 'ecumenism' was a buzz word. Get big. Big is strong. The WCC was born in 1948. It described itself as 'a worldwide fellowship of global, regional and sub-regional, national and local churches seeking unity, a common witness and Christian service'.

The problem was that that kind of 'hope' little by little turns into a commitment to the lowest common denominator, and therefore a very shaky foundation for doing much worthwhile. And then as a fairly natural knock-on effect, we have 'inter-faith dialogue', and the uniqueness of our 'Saviour of the World' is seriously undermined.

That is a perennial problem with interdenominational ecumenical organisations. Hence the disillusionment as mentioned above.

So why another one? Why in 2004 did our General Assembly decide to become a denominational member of the World Reformed Fellowship?

Here are some reasons as spelt out on the website, and with which your PCA General Assembly agreed:

'The mission of the World Reformed Fellowship is to promote understanding, cooperation and sharing of resources among our membership of evangelical and reformed Christians in the advancement of the Gospel.'

'The vision of the WRF is simple - "That the strengths of some might become the strengths of all in the service of Jesus Christ" (see Paul's prayer in Ephesians 4: 11 - 13).

'While specific regional or national expressions of the universal church do, in many ways, embody characteristics of the Body of Christ, there are other characteristics of that Body which transcend those expressions. It is those other characteristics that the WRF seeks to set forth in its commitments and in its activities.

'The World Reformed Fellowship seeks to provide:

- A network for communication and sharing of ministry resources among such Christians*
- A forum for dialogue among such Christians on current issues*
- The opportunity for such Christians from one region of the world to share their unique spiritual and theological perspectives with such Christians from other regions of the world, all within the framework of the evangelical Reformed faith*
- Regular occasions, some for such Christians in specific regions of the world and some for such Christians world-wide, to come together for worship and dialogue and resource-sharing.'*

Of course there is much more to the WRF, all of which can be found on the website wrfnet.org

In brief, the WRF is not a COUNCIL, partly determining the agenda of the constituent bodies, but a FELLOWSHIP in which all parties play their respective parts.

Since 2004 Drs Allan and Mairi Harman, Dr Bob Thomas and Dr John Wilson (all from Victoria) and I have been significantly involved at many levels with the WRF. The more we are involved, the more we are confident to return to our PCA General Assembly with encouragement to continue our beneficial association with the WRF.

Thus far, in membership of the World Reformed Fellowship around the world there are 67 denominations, 145 institutions and organisations, 87 congregations and 670 individuals.

But how does this affect us at the local level?

As members of the Presbyterian Church we want to be as broad as possible in our application of the gospel of God's wondrous grace.

Our Lord Jesus, when he was handed the scroll at Nazareth on that day which kick started his public ministry, was citing Isaiah when he taught, *'The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'.*

And then, *'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'.*

That certainly proved to be 'the cat among the pigeons' for the locals! 'Fulfilled today?' they asked. 'Not possible!' That was the opinion of the majority. And Jesus pushed over the cliff would have solved their problem!

But what Jesus said was the whole point of his ministry. A gospel that touched everything to do with world and human existence. Everything. *‘For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross’.* (Col 1:20)

Ministering good news. Good news of freedom from the grip of satan. Good news of peace. Good news that touched the poor, the prisoners, the blind, the oppressed. All Spirit-inspired.

Now as we look around the world church, we all face the challenges of which Jesus speaks. We call some of these challenges by different names maybe, but they’re essentially the same challenges – mission, human trafficking, abuse of children, slavery, organ transplant scandals, killing of the unborn, evangelism, justice, the plight of refugees, etc.

The gospel must touch all areas. Nothing missing out.

WRF attempts to address these issues from a global world perspective. Syrian Christians face obstacles far greater than we could conceive of. We get their perspective. Christians in Iran, and Myanmar, South Africa, Somalia, USA, PNG, and Australia. We get the perspective from all of them, and address the question of how ‘the strengths of the few become the strengths of many in the Cause of Jesus Christ’, which is the central pillar of the desired outcome of WRF.

And so, at the next March 2015 Assembly of the WRF in Brazil, those who contribute to the presentations, debate and discussions will be from Bangladesh, Turkey, USA, Iran, Brazil, Mexico, South Africa, UK, Indonesia, Germany, Ireland, Australia, Uganda, Hong Kong, etc.

We will be attempting to disseminate global considerations of the matters which in tiny ways affect us all, so that we might be more mature in thinking the issues through from a global perspective, thus resulting in the application of the gospel at the local level being more effective and through the process, to stretch you in your thinking and application of the breath-taking breadth of the gospel.

Get started in studying the help that is offered by going to the website and see the quality of the materials available there materials that have the touch of international broad-based thinking and experience.

Your General Assembly of the PCA has made a decision to be an active participant in the World Reformed Fellowship. Our commitment is to make this more valuable throughout our church.

BUT, please consider joining the membership as individuals and church institutions/departments by following the prompts on the website (wrfnet.org). Herein lies part of the magic of WRF – any individual may become a member. It’s not just the denomination where there tends to be blockages on information flow at the top. This is for YOU!

And then, better equipped we go to the homeless, debate with the opposition, visit the dispossessed, touch the abused, see the plight of the poor and the rich, agonise with those who have been gravely disappointed with the church, sacrifice our goods for the benefit of others, vigorously pointing others to Calvary's cross, and as Australians learning a much greater engagement with the much wider world.

Robert Benn
CONVENER

COMMUNICATION 4 (Min. 122)

From: Rev Canon, Dr Yvonne Paddison, CEO ACCESS ministries
Re: Thanks for gift in support of ministry in schools



GPO Box 5124
Melbourne VIC 3001 Australia
Telephone: +61 3 9804 0733
Freecall™ (Australia): 1800 063 341
Facsimile: +61 3 9804 0722
Email: info@accessministries.org.au
Website: www.accessministries.org.au
ABN 59 004 240 779

16 October 2013

Rt Rev Andrew Bray
Moderator
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
156 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Andrew

Re: Grant Submission for 2013 – ACCESS ministries

I have been advised by our Finance department that \$24,800.00 was deposited into ACCESS ministries bank account on 11th October 2013 by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

Thank you so much for this generous gift in support of our ministry in schools.

I value greatly your encouragement and the support and of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The financial backing of all our Member Churches is vital to maintaining our programs in schools and I thank you again for this wonderful gift.

Yours in Christ

Rev Canon Dr Evonne Paddison
CEO ACCESS ministries

Dear Andrew,
Please pass on my deep thanks to the
Presbyterian Church for this wonderful &
continuing commitment to our ministry
together to young people,
Best Wishes.

COMMUNICATION 5 (Min. 123)

From: Mr Lyle Shelton, Managing Director, Australian Christian Lobby
Re: Thanks for contribution to the ministries work



National Office
Cormack Chambers
4 Campion Street
DEAKIN ACT 2600

T 02 6259 0431
F 02 6259 0462

E natoffice@acl.org.au
W acl.org.au

05 November 2013

ID: 3208

Presbyterian Church of Victoria
Mr M Ellison
156 Collins St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Michael,

We, at ACL, constantly strive towards our goals of seeing Christian principles and ethics accepted and influencing the way we are governed, do business and relate to each other in the community; to see social justice issues addressed from a Christian perspective; and to see the church rise up to be a voice for values in our country.

In all that we do we are very mindful of the vital role our supporters play and we greatly appreciate all the support we receive.

On behalf of all at ACL thank you for your contribution to resourcing the ministry's work into the future.

God Bless,

Mr Lyle Shelton
Managing Director

Australian Christian Lobby
4 Campion Street, Deakin ACT 2600
Tel: 02 6259 0431 Fax: 02 6259 0462
Website: www.acl.org.au
ABN: 40 075 120 517

Official Receipt

Donations to Australian Christian Lobby are not tax deductible

DATE	RECEIVED FROM	PARTICULARS	AMOUNT
11/10/2013	Presbyterian Church of Victoria	Distribution	\$11,100.00
		Includes GST to the Value of	
METHOD OF PAYMENT: Internet		Total Amount Received	\$11,100.00

COMMUNICATION 6 (Min. 124)

From: Rev Dr Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA
Re: GAA Declaration on Baptism

Presbyterian Church of Australia

168-180 CHALMERS STREET, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
PO BOX 2196, STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012 | DX 22502 SURRY HILLS

Telephone: (02) 9690 9371 | Facsimile: (02) 9310 2148
E-mail: assembly@pcnsw.org.au | Web: www.pcnsw.org.au

RECEIVED

25 NOV 2013



20 November, 2013

Memorandum:: GAA Declaration on Baptism

To; Clerks of State Assemblies
Clerks of Presbyteries

From: The Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia

Attached is an extract minute from the 2013 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia (GAA BB 2013 Min. 83) concerning Baptism for the information of your Assembly or Presbytery. The matter was referred to the General Assembly of Australia by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in NSW.

(Rev. Dr) Paul Logan
Clerk of Assembly

Presbyterian Church of Australia

EXTRACT MINUTE

At *Sydney*..... and within the *Chinese Presbyterian Church*
on *Thursday* the *12th*..... day of *September*, 20*13*....., at *9.30* a.m.,
the *General Assembly of Australia* pursuant to adjournment
and was constituted with prayer.

Among other things:

83. Reference (i): A reference from the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in NSW concerning Baptism was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. C.D. Balzer stated the reference.

Questions were asked of the person stating the reference.

It was moved, seconded and agreed the Reverence be sustained.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. Dr P.E. Barnes moved:

That the Assembly:

Is of the opinion at this meeting of the General Assembly of Australia that the understanding and practice of infant baptism is so integral to the history, the purity of worship and the structure of covenant theology in the Westminster Confession of Faith that no potential office-bearer should sign the formula if the Church's stance on infant baptism is not accepted. Furthermore, those who have signed it but hold credo-baptistic views should remain silent on their views or resign.

The motion was seconded.

The Rev. P.W. Hastie moved as an amendment:

That the Assembly:

Amend the motion by deleting the words "Is of the opinion at this meeting of the General Assembly" and insert the word "Declare".

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The Rev. R. Schwarz moved as an amendment:

That the Assembly:

Delete the word "infant" and insert the word "covenant".

The amendment was seconded and disapproved.

The Very Rev. C.R. Thomas moved as an amendment.

That the Assembly:

Add the words "exclusively to" before the word "credo".

The amendment was seconded and approved.

The motion of the Rev. Dr P.E. Barnes as amended was approved as follows:

That the Assembly:

Declare that the understanding and practice of infant baptism is so integral to the history of the purity of worship and the structure of covenant theology in the Westminster Confession of Faith that no potential office bearer should sign the formula if the Church's stance on infant baptism is not accepted. Furthermore, those who have signed it but hold exclusively to credobaptistic views should remain silent on their views or resign.

The meeting was closed with prayer.

Extracted from the records of the *General Assembly of Australia*
this *20th*..... day of *November*, 20*13*....., by me.

Paul [Signature]....., Clerk of Assembly.

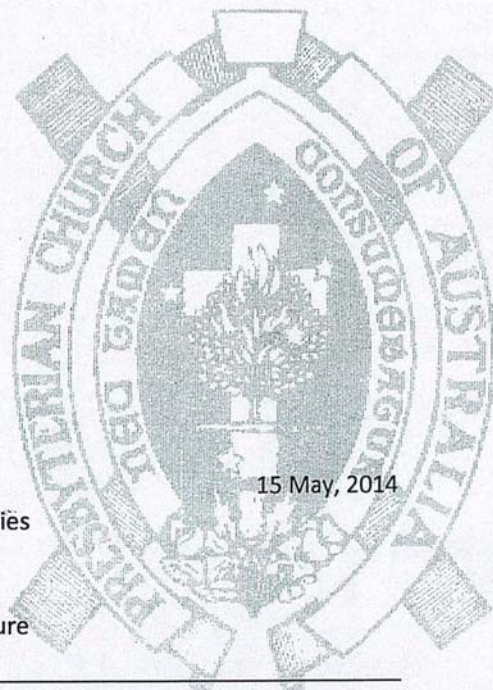
COMMUNICATION 7 (Min. 125)

From: Rev Dr Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA
Re: GAA Committee restructure

Presbyterian Church of Australia

168-180 CHALMERS STREET, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
PO BOX 2196, STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012 | ~~BOX 22302 SURRY HILLS~~

Telephone: (02) 9690 9371 | Facsimile: (02) 9310 2148
E-mail: assembly@pcnsw.org.au | Web: www.pcnsw.org.au



MEMORANDUM TO: Clerks of State Assemblies
Clerks of Presbyteries

SUBJECT: GAA Committee Structure

The 2010 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia resolved to request the Code Committee to review the committee regulations concerning the nomination and election of committee members and conveners and report with any recommendations to the next meeting of the General Assembly of Australia (GAA BB 2010 Min. 19(3)).

In 2013 the General Assembly of Australia resolved to request the Code Committee to consult with any committees affected by the proposed changes to the committee structures before forwarding any proposal for restructuring of assembly committees to presbyteries and state assemblies for consideration and report in terms of Standing Order 20 (GAA BB 2013 Min. 240).

In terms of Standing Order 20 I forward the proposal from the Code Committee concerning GAA committee structures to each of the committees, presbyteries and state assemblies for comments. Replies should be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 December, 2014.

(Rev. Dr) Paul Logan
Clerk of Assembly

CHAPTER 9

Committees of the General Assembly

1. Standing Committees

- 1.1 In accordance with Article 4.1, standing committees of the Assembly are:

Australian Presbyterian World Mission
Business
Christian Education
Church and Nation
Code
College
Defence Force Chaplaincy
Finance
Moderator's Nominating
National Journal
Presbyterian Inland Mission
Public Worship and Aids to Devotion
Reception of Ministers
Relations with Other Churches

- 1.2 These regulations apply having regard to Standing Order 101.

2. Composition of Committees

- 2.1 The Business Committee and Moderator's Nominating Committee shall be elected under their own regulations.

- 2.2 All other standing committees shall consist of:

- (a) ten elected members
- (b) a convener appointed under 3.1, and
- (c) ex officio members.

When these regulations refer to members of a committee they include the elected members, the convener and the ex officio members unless it is clear from the wording that a particular regulation is referring to only the ten elected members, convener and/or ex officio members.

- 2.3 The ten elected members shall be elected by the Assembly through the ballot on the following basis and according to the rules of the Ballot Committee:

New South Wales	3 members
Queensland	2 members
Victoria	2 members
South Australia	1 member
Tasmania	1 member
Western Australia	1 member

- 2.4 The members elected under 2.2(a) shall so far as practical be comprised ordinarily of an equal number of ministers and elders.

- 2.5 The Officers of the Assembly as defined in Article 1.7 of the Articles shall be ex officio members of all Assembly standing and special committees unless expressly excluded.

3. Conveners

- 3.1 The convener of each committee shall be elected by the Assembly through the ballot except for:
- (a) the Code Committee, where the convener shall be the Clerk of Assembly, and
 - (b) the Finance Committee, where the convener shall be the Chairman from time to time of The Presbyterian Church (New South Wales) Property Trust.
- 3.2 As the convener of the Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee is also the Presbyterian Member of the Religious Advisory Committee to the Services, the convener of that committee must be a minister.
- 3.3 If for any reason a convenorship is vacant, or the incumbent convener is unable or unwilling to act as convener, then such incumbent is, from the time the Clerk of Assembly receives the communication of such inability or unwillingness, removed as convener. The Clerk of Assembly will then convene a meeting of the committee as soon as may practically be arranged and the committee, at that meeting, will elect from its membership an acting convener, who on such election will act as convener until the next meeting of the Assembly.

4. State Nominations

- 4.1 A State Assembly may nominate persons from that State for election to a committee in accordance with regulation 2.3.
- 4.2 The submission of nominations by a State Assembly shall not prevent further nominations being made to the Assembly in accordance with the procedures of the Ballot Committee.

5. Additional members

Any committee may appoint one or more persons as additional members of the committee if and when required. Such additional members shall not be entitled to vote.

6. Eligibility for membership

Members of State Assemblies, ministers without charge, elders and communicants of the Church may be nominated as members and conveners of Assembly committees whether or not they are members of the General Assembly.

7. Casual Vacancies

Casual vacancies on any committee arising between meetings of the Assembly shall be filled by the committee, subject to the terms of its own regulations.

8. Special Committees

In accordance with Article 4.2 the Assembly may appoint special committees, for which the membership and tasks shall be specified in the minute establishing them. The above regulations do not apply except for those providing for the filling of casual vacancies of the convener or membership, and eligibility for membership.

9. Ballot Committee

- 9.1 The Ballot Committee shall be a special committee which functions only during a meeting of the Assembly. Its task is to arrange and hold the ballot for elected positions during the Assembly.

- 9.2 Membership of the Ballot Committee should be as specified in the regulations of the Ballot Committee.
- 9.3 The Ballot Committee shall be appointed by the Assembly upon a recommendation in the deliverance of the Business Committee.

10. Finance

Financial arrangements for committees are made in accordance with the regulations of the Finance Committee.

11. General Rules of Committees

- 11.1 Standing Order 101 applies to all committees of the Assembly.
- 11.2 In terms of Standing Order 101(a) a quorum for a meeting of a committee shall be members who are drawn from at least three States.
- 11.3 A committee shall appoint its own executive and/or sub-committees and shall arrange the work of the committee as it shall see fit.
- 11.4 Committees are encouraged, where appropriate, to do business other than in face to face meetings with care being taken to preserve the rights of all members.
- 11.5 The convener of a committee is responsible for ensuring that the committee keeps proper records of its proceedings, including meetings held and/or resolutions adopted pursuant to 11.6 and 11.7.
- 11.6 A committee is permitted to hold a meeting by means of a telephone or internet audio or video conference whereby all members participating in the meeting are able to hear and be heard by all other participants.
- 11.7 A committee may without meeting make a resolution by email provided that
- (a) the proposed resolution is notified by email to each committee member in time for each member to make a considered decision, and
 - (b) every such response is sent to all members by the person making it.

In the determination of a particular matter, no response shall be considered if it has not been sent to all members. Any proposal for a decision to be made by email shall specify a response time which shall not be less than four days and, upon the expiration of that period, the matter will be determined in accordance with those responses received at that time which are able to be considered because they have been circulated to all members. A proposal for a specific resolution to be determined by email may be vetoed by any three members.

COMMUNICATION 8 (Min. 126)

From: Rev Dr Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA
Re: Code of discipline remit

Presbyterian Church of Australia

168-180 CHALMERS STREET, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
PO BOX 2196, STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012 | ~~168-180 CHALMERS STREET~~

Telephone: (02) 9690 9371 | Facsimile: (02) 9310 2148
E-mail: assembly@pcnsw.org.au | Web: www.pcnsw.org.au

RECEIVED

13 MAR 2014

4 March, 2014

Memorandum To: Clerks of State Assemblies
Clerks of Presbyteries

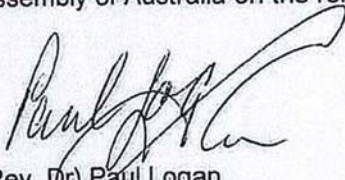
From: Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia

Subject: Matters from the 2013 GAA

Enclosed please find the following:

1. The Blue Book (Minutes and reports from the 2013 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia)
2. Changes to *Constitution, Practice and Procedure* approved by the 2013 General Assembly of Australia
3. The remit from the 2013 General Assembly of Australia

I draw your attention to the date by which responses should be made to the Clerk of the General Assembly of Australia on the remit.


(Rev. Dr) Paul Logan
Clerk of Assembly

RETURNS TO REMITS

Under the Barrier Act:

1. Overture (ii): An overture from the Code Committee to amend the Code of Discipline by the insertion of new clauses 2.04, 2.20 and 2.28(b).

From the Code Committee to amend the Code of Discipline by the insertion of new clauses 2.04, 2.20 and 2.28(b).

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia.

WHEREAS

- A. Disagreement has arisen as to whether a matter of discipline can be dealt with by a committee or a commission.
- B. Courts of the Church from time to time refer other matters to a committee or to a commission.
- C. Matters considered under the Code of Discipline deal with matters private and confidential to the parties concerned.
- D. The Code Committee has considered a report from its Convener concerning the matter.

Now therefore the Code Committee overtures the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Australia to take these premises into consideration and to amend the Code of Discipline of the Presbyterian Church of Australia by:

1. Inserting a new clause 2.04: "A court of the church in considering the report of a committee dealing with a matter of discipline may remit the report to the committee for further consideration and report but must, in all matters, follow the procedures of the Code of Discipline" and renumber all subsequent clauses.
2. Inserting a new clause 2.20: "A presbytery may remit a case of discipline to a committee for investigation and report to a future meeting of the presbytery but the judgement on the matter must be that of the presbytery" and renumber all subsequent clauses.
3. Inserting following clause 2.28 a new clause 2.29: "The General Assembly may remit a case of discipline to a committee for investigation and report to a future meeting of the Assembly but the judgement on the matter must be that of the Assembly" and renumber all subsequent clauses.

Or to do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may deem fit.

The Rev. Dr Paul Logan and Mr Simon Fraser were appointed to state the overture.

62. Overture (ii): An overture from the Code Committee to amend the Code of Discipline by the insertion of new clauses 2.04, 2.20 and 2.28(b) was laid on the table and received.

The Rev. Dr Paul Logan and Mr S.H. Fraser presented the overture.

Questions were asked of the overture.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. Dr Paul Logan moved:

That the Assembly:

Sustain the overture.

The motion was seconded and approved.

Pursuant to notice the Rev. Dr Paul Logan moved:

That the Assembly:

Send the overture to state assemblies and presbyteries under Barrier Act procedure with replies to be in the hands of the Clerk of Assembly by 31 December, 2015.

The motion was seconded and approved.

COMMUNICATION 9 (Min. 23)

From: Rev Paul Logan, Clerk of the GAA
Re: GAV Appointment of Ministers and Elders to Moderator's Nominating Committee

Presbyterian Church of Australia

168-180 CHALMERS STREET, SURRY HILLS NSW 2010
PO BOX 2196, STRAWBERRY HILLS NSW 2012 | ~~011 999 999 999~~

Telephone: (02) 9690 9371 | Facsimile: (02) 9310 2148
E-mail: assembly@pcnsw.org.au | Web: www.pcnsw.org.au

Communication 9

MEMORANDUM

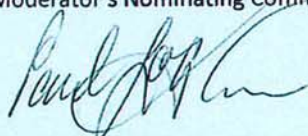
TO: Clerks of State Assemblies
FROM: Clerk of Assembly
SUBJECT: Moderator-General Nominating Committee
DATE: 21ST January, 2014

The next General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Australia will meet in Sydney at 7.00 p.m. on Monday 12th September 2016.

Regulations of the Moderator's Nominating Committee require each State Assembly to appoint three ministers and three elders to that Committee. The business of the Committee is carried out by correspondence unless the voting fails to provide a single nominee.

Nominations are also invited from State Assemblies for Moderator-General of the 2016 General Assembly of Australia. All nominations by State Assemblies shall have the written consent of the nominee which should accompany the nomination.

Would you please advise me by 31 December, 2014 of the members of the General Assembly of Australia Moderator's Nominating Committee from your assembly and nominations for Moderator-General, if any.



(Rev. Dr) Paul Logan
Clerk of Assembly

COMMUNICATION 10 (Min. 20)

From: Brian D Baystom OAM, Law Agent of the PCV
Re: his retirement as PCV law agent

McCracken & McCracken LAWYERS

Rev Dr John P Wilson
Clerk of Assembly
Presbyterian Church of Victoria
156 Collins Street
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

OUR REF: BDB:943992
CONTACT: Brian Baystom
YOUR REF:
23 September 2014

Dear John

Re: Office of Law Agent

I have had at least two conversations with you in recent days about my position as Law Agent of the General Assembly a position I have held since 1974, a period of some forty years.

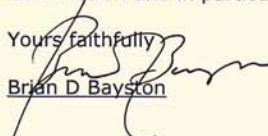
You are aware that as a result of renal failure I am now required to undergo dialysis three times a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays which occupies me in travel time and treatment during a period extending from 7.20am to after 1.00pm. As a result, my attendance at my office has been substantially reduced and of late has been of a token nature, although for the time being I intend to keep up such attendance as may be necessary to attend to the many Estates and Trusts in which I am involved professionally.

Where stands my commitment to the office of Law Agent? There will be many scheduled meetings which I will not be able to attend because of the largely inflexible routine of dialysis treatment. I therefore suggested to you that it may be appropriate for my resignation to take effect as at the conclusion of the Assembly to be held in October next. In saying this I was hopeful that a recommendation might then be brought to that Assembly as to who should be my successor. For one reason or another that may not be possible and to avoid a situation where the Assembly has no Law Agent, I should like to offer to continue "for the time being" that is until another nomination of Law Agent is made and accepted. Needless to say I would not think it appropriate to accept an honorarium for my services during that "stop gap" period and which is unrelated to the services I actually provide.

I note that the draft papers to go to the Assembly with respect to the Commission to take charge of Institutions show me as a group A member for both Scotch College and Presbyterian Ladies College. I am happy about that and hope that my association with these two schools may continue. I think that this is possible because so many of the meetings are unaffected by the inflexible hours of treatment by dialysis.

I thought at first that I may be able to continue as a member of the Commission to take charge of institutions, but that may not be practicable unless I am a member of the Assembly. Once I cease to be the Law Agent I think that it would be a pity if the acquired knowledge which I have of the constitutions of these two schools was not available to the Commission. I note that Chapter 4 Rule 3(m) speaks of "The Law Agent or Law Agents". I therefore raise the possibility that the Assembly may see fit to appoint me, so that I may be accorded the title of Law Agent, in an auxiliary capacity and thus be available for appointment to the commission to take charge of Institutions. Exactly how much participation in that Commission will be possible will depend upon the hours of meeting of the Commission and in particular of the days of the week that it meets.

Yours faithfully,


Brian D Baystom

Reply to: City Office - [03] 9670 9661
Email: bdb@mccrackenlegal.com

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Harold McCracken OBE, LL.B.
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COMMUNICATION 11 (Min. 65)

From: Very Rev Bob Thomas, Convener, PresAID
Re: 2014 Christmas Appeal

PresAID Presbyterians Assisting In Development

PresAID is grateful to the congregations of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria for their generous, ongoing support of PresAID Christmas and Easter Appeals.

Since its inception in 2005, PresAID has opened new doors of partnership with sister churches through assisting them with funding for both Gospel work and works of mercy, following our Lord's example.

Some of these works have been in partnership with churches with whom we have had long-established relationships, while others have been with new-found friends; some have been in direct association with Australian Presbyterian World Mission, while others have been in co-operation with missionaries working in partnership mission agencies.

Projects supported have included famine relief, flood relief, orphan and vulnerable children care, hospital upgrading, water reticulation, HIV/AIDS projects, Christian schools, student scholarships, building churches, theological education, provision of vehicles, publication programs, student accommodation and Bible translation. The full story is told on the following two pages.

This Christmas we plan to help an exciting variety of worthy causes, namely:

Reformed Presbyterian Church and Bible College, Bangladesh:

Bikes for evangelists: \$2,400 (20 bikes at a cost of \$120 each);

Scholarships for a pastor and his wife to further their studies in Dehradun, India - \$15,000 (3 years of study at \$5,000 per year).

Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu to upgrade solar power facilities on two missionary houses at Talua Bible College - \$10,000

Reformed Presbyterian Church of Myanmar to fund renovation of the hall at the Reformed Bible Institute, Yangon - \$3,000

CCAP Zambia to Complete the construction of the principal's residence at Chasefu Theological College, Zambia - \$15,000

Scholarships for three Zimbabwean students to attend Chasefu Theological College - \$6,000.

We are therefore looking to the Lord to provide some \$50,000 through the generosity of His people in the 2014 PresAID Christmas Appeal. If more than this amount is raised we will be able as a national church to do even more to assist in the extension of Christ's Kingdom.

We would be grateful if the Assembly would encourage all congregations to participate in the forthcoming 2014 PresAID Christmas Day Appeal and all our people to give generously to it.

Thank you for your help and co-operation.

Yours sincerely in Christ,
Bob Thomas, Convener, PresAID

PresAID ... Record of Gifts

Date	Appeal	Received by...	Amount (\$)
Christmas 2005	Malawi Famine Relief	Malawi – CCAP synod grain for starving families	95,309
	Pakistan Cyclone Relief	Pakistan –	
Christmas 2006	Moderators Mercy Appeal for Africa	Sudan – candidates for Presbyterian ministry	21,555
		Malawi – CCAP orphan care	13,481
		Zambia – roofing churches for southern presbytery	29,776
		Zimbabwe – housing for displaced Presbyterian families	9,778
Easter 2007	Dehra Dun INDIA – Orphanages	India – Bhogpur Children's Home	3,917
		India – Hope for Children Society	3,917
Christmas 2007	Mercy Appeal	Myanmar – Evangelical Reformed Church ministry	25,671
		Bangladesh – Grace Presbyterian Church ministry	25,671
		Malawi – CCAP Mulanje Mission Hospital	25,705
Easter 2008	Mercy Appeal	Vanuatu – building projects on Tanna	14,874
		Indonesia – Elim Hospital	13,819
Christmas 2008	Mercy Appeal	Zambia – Chasefu Theological College	40,000
		Vanuatu – water reticulation project	21,000
Easter 2009	Mercy Appeal	Evangelical Pres'n Church – East Timor	8,800
		Evangelical Bible Church, Namibia – HIV/AIDS ministry	8,800
		Orbus Ministries, Malawi – orphan and vulnerable children care	8,800
Christmas 2009	Mercy Appeal	Myanmar – famine relief	22,302
		Zambia – theological education, construction of principal's house	22,302
		IRFA, India - guest house	22,302
Easter 2010	Mercy Appeal	SEWAH, India – provision of vehicle	9,510
		Bangladesh – correspondence courses	9,510
		Vanuatu – Bible College of Southern Presbytery	9,510
Christmas 2010	Mercy Appeal	Vanuatu – Talua student accomm	22,000
		Sudan – synod ministry, esp Theological Education	22,000
		Bangladesh – Christian schools	22,000
Easter 2011	Mercy Appeal	Vanuatu – Talua student accomm	27,806

		Bangladesh – self supporting projects for pastors	14,565
Christmas 2011	Mercy Appeal	India – Dehra Dun – Hope for Children orphanage	5,000
		Zambia – Chasefu Theological College, incl sponsorship of Zimbabwe students	20,733
		Timor Leste – Bible translation	20,733
Easter 2012	Mercy Appeal	Timor Leste – church construction in Dili	40,545
Christmas 2012	Mercy Appeal	Zimbabwe – theological students Myanmar – Bible College buildings Bangladesh – publication program Zambia – church planting	48,434
Easter 2013	Mercy Appeal	Zimbabwe – Nyabira Presbyterian School Vanuatu – Presbytery Resource Centre	24,559
Christmas 2013	Mercy Appeal	Uganda – water for life project Timor Leste – EPC	52,500
Easter 2014	Mercy Appeal	Timor Leste – diaconal fund Malawi/Zimbabwe – containers India – rural church project	30,808
Christmas 2014			
		Total:	\$817,992

PresAID

Presbyterians Assisting In Development

Are YOU

**and YOUR Congregation
involved?**

PresAID is the Aid and Development Department of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. It works in co-operation with Mission Partners, the Australian Presbyterian World Mission, and under the patronage of the Moderator General, Rt Rev David Cook.

PresAID seeks to follow the example of the Lord Jesus Christ as 'He had compassion on them' and 'went about doing good'.

It raises funds by asking all PCA congregations to donate their Christmas Day and Good Friday offerings to PresAID for two or three worthy causes selected in consultation with receiving churches and APWM, whose Director, Rev Kevin Murray, is an active member of the PresAID Committee.

Every cent raised from these offerings is sent off to receiving churches to be used for the stated purposes on the understanding that we will follow up in due course so that we can report progress to our donors for the purpose of encouraging their ongoing Christian generosity.

Since its formation by the General Assembly of Australia in 2007, PresAID has become an enhancement to traditional mission work and relations with sister churches in other parts of the world.

Since beginning with a trial scheme in 2006 we have raised \$750,000 Some of the things we have been able to do are: assist recovery from earthquake in Pakistan, provide food aid in Malawi famine, build five churches in Zambia between Lusaka and Victoria Falls, build and help establish Chasefu Theological College in Zambia, establish a HIV-AIDS education program in Namibia, upgrade Tangoa Training Institute in Vanuatu, establish a Christian Education program in East Timor, provide food aid for Myanmar, assist Darjeeling Hills Bible College in India, provide a four wheel drive vehicle for Himalaya Education and Welfare project, help establish Correspondence Bible Course in Bangladesh, establish branch of PCVanuatu Bible Training College on Tanna, build water reticulation scheme on Tangoa, fund a water purification scheme for a village on the shore of Lake Victoria in partnership with PresAID Uganda.

We have been pleased to see kindred spirits in the denomination do similar things: ORBUS has established an orphanage in Blantyre, the Presbytery of Melbourne East has raised scholarship money for two students from Zimbabwe to train at Chasefu, five shipping containers of goods have been sent to Malawi, Zambia and Lokichoggio (Kenya), three congregations bought a minibus for CCAP Zambia and funded a study trip for students for the ministry to visit Malawi and Zambia.

We thank God for what He has enabled our people to do directly through PresAID and in addition to what PresAID has done.

Bob Thomas, Convener, PresAID.

OVERTURE 1

From: Selection Committee (Revised)

To the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

In the light of:

1. The increasing number of casual vacancies on state committees;
2. the increasing difficulty in filling vacancies;
3. the large number of committees relative to other State Churches;
4. the Assembly having in the past reviewed committees and seeking to reduce or rationalise the committees;
5. the time taken away from local ministry to attend to committee commitments being a hindrance to the work of the kingdom.

Now therefore the Selection Committee humbly overtures the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and...

1. Agree to the restructuring of the committees by
 1. Creating a distinction between “Standing Committees” and “Special Committees”.
 2. Dissolving the following Committees at the 2015 General Assembly:
 1. Assessors Committee
 1. The duties of the committee to be performed by the Moderator in conjunction with MDC.
 2. Church Records Management and Archives Committee
 1. The duties are presently performed by the Clerk, the committee not having met in some years.
 3. Clerkship Committee
 1. The Moderator and Previous Moderator to assist the Clerk in his accountability.
 4. Conciliation Committee
 1. The duties performed by the Clerk, who will co-opt as required.
 5. Exit Student Committee
 1. The duties of the committee to be performed by the MDC with the power to co-opt those whose expertise or advice is prudent for making specific appointments.
 6. General Mission Program
 1. The GMP committee has in previous General Assemblies asked to be dissolved. This responsibility to be handed over to the BIF who follow the directives of the General Assembly from time to time.
 7. Moderator's Committee
 1. The Moderator to confer with previous moderators and the Clerk for advice.
 8. Defence Force Chaplaincy
 1. To become a subcommittee of HCCC.
 9. Building and Property Committee
 1. Duties handed over to the MDC.
 3. Designate the following existing committees as “Special Committees”
 1. Ballot Committee
 2. Records Committee
 4. Altering the membership of existing committees as follows

1. Increase the number of members of the MDC to 10.
2. Decrease the number of members of the CENC to 8.
3. Decrease the number of members of the CANDN to 8.
5. Having the Code Committee bring to the 2015 General Assembly regulations for approval which facilitate the above changes.

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Persons to State the Overture Rev Cameron Garrett and Rev Dean Carroll

PETITION 1 (Min. 41)

From: The Presbytery of Gippsland RE: MDC Funding for the Bairnsdale Parish.

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) The Bairnsdale Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria has strategic importance for the Gippsland Presbytery and for the denomination as our Eastern most parish in the state;
- b) The Presbytery remains encouraged by the signs of church health demonstrated within the parish consistently over the last five years, with a close unity developed and maintained as well as a central concern for the congregation to be focused on ministering the gospel to each other and the surrounding community;
- c) Over the last four years the Bairnsdale congregation has experienced slow but steady growth so that now an average of 42 persons, sometimes close to 50, meets weekly for worship;
- d) Consistent outreach ministry operates from the Bairnsdale parish in various ways:
 - i. weekly through a *mainly music* group, supported by 17 volunteers from within the congregation, which sees up to 20 different community (non-Church) families attend weekly, significant relationships being fostered between church and community and the gospel shared.
 - ii. Kid's Holiday ministry which builds further contacts with local community families.
 - e. Specific evangelistic events which non-Christians are encouraged to, and do, attend;
- e) There is a vision in place for the church to continue developing its ministry to become a centre for Christian family discipleship within the region;
- f) Over the last four years the generous giving within the congregation has increased:

July 2009 - June 2010 =\$32,000
July 2013 – June 2014 = \$46,700;
- g) For many years now the parish has relied on financial support from the MDC to sustain full time ministry and has exceeded the 10 year limit on subsidy funding, with the Assembly approving MDC support for the congregation for the most recent four (including this current) financial years;
- h) The Bairnsdale Board of Management, continuing to prioritise resources towards gospel ministry, seek to manage their budget so as to support and run gospel work while minimising grant requests, trusting the Lord to provide what is lacking;

- i) The congregation requires the continuation of consistent ministry to persevere in and expand this work and allow the congregation to be established as self sustaining over the long term;
- j) The Rev G Stephens current three year appointment will be evaluated for renewal in May 2015 with the intention of a further three year appointment to be made (May 2015-May 2018).

Now therefore the Presbytery of Gippsland humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and authorise the Ministry Development Committee at their discretion and subject to MDC guidelines, to provide a subsidy grant to the Bairnsdale for the 2015/2016, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 financial years in order to secure full time ministry at the parish during this rebuilding time in the life of the congregation

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Rev Mark Smith and Rev Gary Stephens have been appointed to present the petition.

PETITION 2 (Min. 55)

From: The Presbytery of Maroondah Re: Rev Chuol Yat seat on Presbytery and Assembly

To the venerable the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

1. the Presbytery of Maroondah resolved, at the Presbytery meeting of 2nd September 2014, to petition the General Assembly of Victoria to grant Rev Chuol Yat a seat on Presbytery and Assembly following his appointment on Wednesday 30th July 2014 by the Ministry Development Committee;
2. Rev Chuol Yat is a minister of the Presbyterian Church having been ordained in 2000 and served as an assistant at Clayton Presbyterian Church in Flinders Presbytery;
3. the Presbytery of Maroondah have approved the appointment, in consultation with the Ministry Development Committee, of the Rev Chuol Yat as Home Missionary to Warburton Home Mission Station for an initial period of twelve months;
4. Rev Chuol Yat carries out all the pastoral duties as an ordained minister of the Word and Sacraments for the Warburton Home Mission Station.

Now therefore, the Presbytery of Maroondah humbly petitions the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria to take these premises into consideration and grant the Rev Chuol Yat a seat on Presbytery as long as Rev Chuol Yat remains the Home Missionary of Warburton Home Mission Station or do otherwise as the Assembly in its wisdom may consider appropriate.

Petition to be presented by Rev Matt James and Elder Douglas Fraser.

PETITION 3 (Min. 114)

From: Rev P Barclay, Moderator, Clarinda Presbyterian Church
Re: Long Service Leave Grant

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

a) Mr Andrew Forrester was appointed as temporary resident full-time supply at the Clarinda Presbyterian Church at 80% of the minimum stipend of an ordained minister on May 20, 2001 while the congregation sought to fill the vacancy caused by the demission of the charge by the Rev John Ellis. When the church found it was no longer able to afford a full time ordained minister, Andrew Forrester became permanent resident full-time supply under the same terms and conditions.

b) Mr Andrew Forrester wrote a letter to the Maintenance of Ministry Committee on April 8, 2011 inquiring about his eligibility to take long service leave. He received an email dated May 1, 2011 from the convener Mr John Angelico which included the following: *"The Committee resolved that your role as supply preacher/pastor falls within the applicable definitions of our LSL regulations. You are therefore eligible for LSL in accordance with the current regulations, on the same pro-rata basis as your supply terms."*

c) On July 26, 2011 the Presbytery of Flinders approved the request of Mr Andrew Forrester to take long service leave from December 27, 2011 to March 12, 2012 and notified the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee of their approval in a letter dated July 27, 2011.

d) On December 1, 2011 the Clarinda Board wrote to the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee enquiring how much the Long Service Leave Fund will reimburse the Parish when Andrew Forrester takes long service leave. The Clarinda Board received no reply.

e) The Clarinda Board, despite requests for clarification throughout 2012 and 2013, received no response from the Maintenance of Ministry Committee until it received a letter from the convener Dr John Woodward (dated December 3, 2013) informing the Board that the Maintenance of Ministry Committee regulations forbade any payment from the fund to the Clarinda congregation, and prevented the use of the discretionary power available in rule 36 of the regulations.

f) Dr John Woodward wrote that *"Mere payment of the Long Service levy by a Congregation {all congregations are required to pay this} does not and should not imply that the Congregation is entitled to a Long Service Leave Grant."* The congregation has paid the long service leave levy, and agrees that Dr Woodward's statement is in accord with rule 23 of the regulations.

g) Dr Woodward wrote, *"We understand that Mr Forrester is not an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Australia. If he were we would have received advice from the Presbytery of Flinders as to his status and employment record."*

This would only disqualify the Clarinda Board from payment from the Long Service Fund, if the fund was restricted to ordained ministers. Rule 24 of the regulations headed 'Eligibility' shows this is not the case.

"Persons eligible for long service leave under these regulations shall include:

- a) ordained ministers;*
- b) exited students appointed to a Parish;*
- c) home missionaries assigned to a Parish;*
- d) missionaries on overseas or home service;*
- e) church workers, however titled acting in a pastoral and/or teaching role, unless otherwise specified in their Terms of Settlement.*
 - i) in the course of their ministry in the Church in Australia, or with the GAA APWM Committee or the Presbyterian Inland Mission, providing that at the time of their being eligible for leave they are serving the Church in Victoria. "*
 - ii) Ministers or missionaries located outside Victoria when their leave becomes due shall be deemed to be serving in Victoria if they were last commissioned or appointed by a Victorian Parish, Committee or other body of the Church.*
 - iii) References in Regulations 25-32 to "Minister" shall be read to include all eligible persons identified above and references to "Parish" and "Presbytery" shall be read to include the equivalent employing body of the Church."*

Mr Andrew Forrester fits into 24(e): *"church workers, however titled acting in a pastoral and/or teaching role"*. Both the PCV Code (code 4:97) and these regulations recognize persons acting in a capacity like Mr Andrew Forrester's.

The regulations are worded in such a way as to catch anyone who exercises any kind of paid Christian ministry within or connected to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The purpose of these regulations is to include (rather than exclude) anyone who serves Christ through the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. The regulations allow for the possibility that others, not specifically mentioned, may be adjudged to be eligible *'Persons eligible for long service leave under these regulations shall include....'* The Committee also has a discretionary power. *"Notwithstanding the provisions of these Regulations, the Committee shall have discretionary powers to deal with exceptional cases not provided for therein."* (rule 36). However, in this case, there is no need to exercise any discretionary power as those serving in a capacity like Mr Andrew Forrester's are eligible under rule 24. This was acknowledged by the committee in its email dated May 1, 2011 sent by its then convener Mr John Angelico.

h) Dr Woodward writes, *"We understand that Mr Forrester is a private appointment and as such is not covered by our Assembly's fund. You are free to cover him privately."*

If the use of 'private' means that Mr Forrester was appointed by the Clarinda congregation without input from Presbytery, this is incorrect. A document was presented to the Presbytery of Flinders detailing every step in the appointment of Mr Forrester, as well as all subsequent changes, showing that every point Presbytery was involved in and approved of his appointment, and that at no point was there any breach of the Code book. A summary of these steps was passed by the Presbytery on August 26, 2014 and is given here.

The Presbytery of Flinders declares the following to be an accurate summary of how Mr Andrew Forrester came to be full-time resident supply at the Clarinda Presbyterian Church and the terms of settlement during his service there.

1. The congregation at Clarinda on May 20, 2001 on the recommendation of the Session and the Board and with the guidance of the interim moderator designate, Rev Peter Barclay, acting as agent of the Presbytery, approved the employment of Andrew Forrester as full-time resident supply while the congregation looked for a minister to fill the vacancy in the fully sanctioned charge left by the resignation of Rev John Ellis. Andrew was to be paid 80% of the minimum stipend for ordained ministers and four weeks annual leave, plus accommodation in the manse. He received everything that ordained ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria did, but at a lower rate.

2. The Presbytery of Flinders after being told that the finances of the Clarinda parish no longer allowed the employment of a full-time minister asked its moderator and the interim moderator of Clarinda to find a way forward. On the advice of the moderator of Presbytery, Rev Gary Ware, two options were put before the congregation on May 3, 2003. The congregation chose to retain Andrew Forrester even though it meant the reduction of the parish to a Home Mission station. Presbytery was informed of the result and reduced the status of the parish to a Home Mission station on May 27. Andrew's terms of settlement were unchanged. When the Home Mission declined to appoint Andrew as a home missionary, Presbytery retained the status quo at Clarinda, that is, Andrew's terms of settlement remained tied to the minimum ministerial stipend of ordained ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria and varied as it did.

3. When the parish found it was becoming increasingly difficult to pay Andrew 80% of the minimum stipend, new terms were negotiated. On November 23, 2010 Presbytery approved the following. "The package consists of the manse to live in, and two fifths remuneration of minimum stipend, non-cash benefits and superannuation, with the expectation that he takes the Sunday services, that Mr Forrester be given five weeks and five Sundays annual leave for which he will be paid two fifths of minimum stipend, superannuation and non-cash benefits per week." The Board had resolved not to give effect to these new terms until it could no longer pay Andrew 80% of the minimum stipend. In October 2011 the Board received a letter from the Presbyterian Church of Victoria accountant John Vandenberg advising the parish of the new pay arrangements for A Forrester. Andrew received his first pay cheque at the 40% rate on October 14, 2011 (this was for the previous month's salary).

4. These arrangements were made by Presbytery with the interim moderator acting as its agent where the code allowed. Presbytery acted in accord with Code 4:97. "When it sees cause the Presbytery seeks to provide adequate pastoral support or resident supply ministry to a parish or mission field within its bounds by the appointment (whether full or part time) of a minister, licentiate, candidate for the ministry, home missionary, or another suitably qualified person. It either initiates or approves this action in accordance with the procedure and on terms appropriate to the particular circumstances..."

i) The eligibility provisions allow for long service leave (and the payment from the long service fund) for church workers employed by a church body under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. Andrew is such a church worker and the Clarinda Presbyterian Church is such a church body.

There is nothing in the Maintenance of the Ministry regulations that requires bodies employing church workers serving as resident full-time supply to submit terms of settlement annually to the Committee. Nor indeed is there anything in the long service leave regulations that require the employing bodies of church workers who

are not ordained ministers to negotiate terms of employment and payment in any particular way. Mr Forrester's terms of settlement have not changed during the period in question. His salary has been tied to that of the minimum stipend of ministers serving in charges and varied according to the annual determinations of the Commission of Assembly. He received 80% of the minimum stipend, in a way analogous to the way Home Missioners receive 85% of the minimum stipend.

Now therefore I, the Rev Dr Peter Barclay, moderator of the Clarinda Presbyterian Church, humbly petitions the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and ask the Maintenance of the Ministry Committee to pay the Clarinda Board the appropriate amount for the long service leave of Mr Andrew Forrester from the long service leave fund either under rule 24 or rule 36 of their regulations, or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed P Barclay

PETITION 4 (Min. 115)

From: Rev Scott Kroeger
Re: Victorian Police Chaplaincy

To the General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church of Victoria.

This petition shows that:

- a) After discussions with Victoria Police Senior Chaplain, Dr John Broughton, an opportunity has arisen for the appointment of myself to become a full-time Assistant Chaplain with the Victoria Police. However, as Victoria Police have no funding available, the position would need to be a denominational appointment (similar to that of a university chaplain) and either fully funded by the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, or support raised for the appointment (like a missionary candidate or AFES staff worker), or a combination of both. Victorian Police are keen to develop a suitable “memorandum of understanding” which would detail the terms of the appointment and cooperation between Victoria Police and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria.
- b) I have been in contact with the Convener and Executive of the Health & Community Chaplaincy Committee who, with the rest of the Committee have expressed their initial interest in the idea. But after numerous correspondences it is revealed that the HCCC have a differing process for how they engage in establishing and supporting chaplains. They are not inclined in the absence of access to denominational funding, for someone to try and raise their own support. Further, their model revolves around a created and funded position that is then advertised and filled by the HCCC and then recommended to an institution. This model is significantly different to one that would work with Victoria Police. The Senior Chaplain there reserves the right to pick his own staff and is looking to offer a name and placement to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria if they can fund it. He is not interested in prospective chaplains that he has not seen, worked with and observed.
- c) The chief issue remains in finding the funding either within the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, or allowing for support fund-raising to be allowed. This is not something that is unfamiliar to me. My wife and I raised our support with Mission to the World (PCAmerica) for nine years. We know what to do and how to go about it. Further, there would be a major effort in accessing corporate funding as there is a community service and welfare aspect to this idea. The position would need to be funded for a period of 3-4 years through pledged support. Fund-raising would become a part of the job requirement and on-going.
- d) A formal proposal of agreement that would form the basis of understanding between Victoria Police and the Presbyterian Church of Victoria has been drafted using the template from APWM and its partner ministries and is included here in the appendix.

Now therefore, I Rev C Scott Kroeger, humbly petition the Assembly to take these premises into consideration and

1. Instruct the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee to take immediate action towards a partnership agreement with the Victoria Police in establishing the position of Assistant Chaplain as the Rev C Scott Kroeger.

2. Allow Rev Kroeger, through the assistance of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee, to raise his financial support for over an agreed period of time of 3-4 years, should there be no other available source of denominational funding.
3. That the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee assume all other appropriate oversight and care of the Assistant Victorian Police Chaplain as they are willing and as their rules allow.
4. In keeping with the requirements of Victoria Police chaplains maintaining a vital church connection, that the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee ensure that the Assistant Chaplain for Victoria police be installed as such and that he has a seat on the appropriate presbytery.

or do otherwise as in their wisdom they may consider appropriate.

Signed: 

Dated: 25 September 2014

PETITION 5 (Min. 42)

From: The Presbytery of Ballarat Re: MDC Funding for the Horsham Parish

To the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria

This petition shows that:

1. The Horsham Congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria has strategic importance for the presbytery of Ballarat and for the denomination for the following reasons:
 - a. the City of Horsham has a substantial and growing population, currently 15 890 with a median age of 39 (2011 census) and it is the centre of a large rural area with a current population of 19 280 with a median age of 40 (2011 census);
 - b. there is no other Presbyterian witness nearby with the nearest being Nhill (74km NW with no resident minister), Ararat (96km SE with no resident minister) Hamilton (130Km S) and Swan Hill (226km NE).
2. The presbytery remains encouraged by the spiritual health of the congregation as demonstrated by:
 - a. during vacancy the congregation is seeking the nurturing and encouragement of biblical expository preaching and teaching;
 - b. while congregation numbers have remained generally static, around 25, giving has increased from \$27,600 in the 08-09 financial year to \$34,600 in the 13-14 financial year;
 - c. recognising the restrictions of the current building the congregation is examining the viability of either:
 - purchasing an alternative building such as the vacant Church of Christ building on the edge of the CBD and thereby addressing the problems of inadequate buildings and limited public exposure or,
 - rebuilding and redeveloping the current site in response to Horsham Council's 2013 strategy to redevelop Horsham North that will see the existing site about 200m from a major public recreation and youth development;
 - d. the congregation recognises that having a full-time minister would be extremely advantageous to the completion and success of either option.
3. For ten years the parish received financial support from the MDC to sustain full time ministry; this was extended by the General Assembly of 2011 for three years. This funding is only available until the end of June, 2015, but the parish has been vacant since 30th June, 2014. The presbytery is desirous of having full time ministry in the parish but realises that such an appointment or settlement would need to have funding guaranteed for at least five years.
4. The Horsham Board of Management, continuing to prioritise resources towards gospel ministry, seeks to manage its budget to support and facilitate gospel work while minimising grant applications, trusting the Lord to provide.

5. The congregation has expressed its deep and passionate desire for Kingdom growth and sees all development in terms of its concern for a gospel centred ministry strategy.

Now therefore the Presbytery of Ballarat humbly petitions the General Assembly to take these premises into consideration and authorise the Ministry Development Committee, at its discretion and subject to MDC guidelines, to provide grants and other funding options to the Horsham Presbyterian Church for each financial year for five years from the date of appointment or settlement, in order to secure full time ministry in the parish during this watershed time of rebuilding and redevelopment

or to do otherwise as in its wisdom it may consider appropriate.

The petition will be presented on behalf of the presbytery by Rev Steven North and Rev Ian Hutton.

Extracted by me on 6th October, 2014

Keith Allen
Clerk of presbytery

APPEAL 1 (Min. 119)

**From: Rev C R Thomas and Rev P B Chang
Re: Decision of the Presbytery of Melbourne East of 19 February 2014**

PRIVATE PAPER

APPEAL 2 (Min. 119)

**From: Rev C R Thomas and Rev P B Chang
Re: Against the Decision of Presbytery of Melbourne East**

PRIVATE PAPER

ASSEMBLY BOARDS AND COMMITTEES 2014-2015

ad hoc Committee for Sites Reserve Funds

[Immediate Past Moderator (Convener), Clerk of Assembly, Law Agent, General Manager (Secretary), Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance and one nominee from each interested Presbytery.]

Ballarat	Rev M Crabb
Benalla	Rev K R Ee
Flinders	Rev D J Palmer
Geelong	Very Rev Dr A M Harman
Gippsland	Rev C Garrett
Kilnoorat	Rev I Leach
Maroondah	Rev D A Slater
Melbourne East	Very Rev Dr C R Thomas
Melbourne North	Mr B Miller
Melbourne West	Mr D Wright
North Western	Rev B Riding

Australian Presbyterian World Mission [Vic] Committee

[10 Members appointed by the Assembly, 2 by P W M U]

RT 15: Mrs W Pearce [22], Miss E Slater [17], Rev K R Ee [20]

RT 16: Mr N Johnston [22], Mrs S White [22], Rev P Simmonds [17], Rev L Pearce [19]

RT 17: Mr D Bennett [17], Rev P J Burns [22], Rev D Carroll [19]

Convener: Rev P Simmonds [17]

Assessors Panel

[Moderator, Clerk of Assembly, Convener of the Selection Committee, Convener of the Business Committee]

Convener: Moderator

Board of Investment and Finance [Trusts Corporation]

[10 Members, eligible for a second consecutive 5 year term]

RT 15: Mr T Arnold [20], Mr A Letcher [20], Mr E De Zilwa [15]

RT 16:

RT 17: Mr I Bramley [17], Rev S Deroon [22], Rev M Smith [22]

RT 18: Mr G Cox [23], Mr M Duke [23]

RT 19: Rev B Oakes [24], Mr J Tharapos [24]

Chairman: [Appointed annually by the Board]

Building and Property [Architectural] Committee

[3 Members]

RT 15: Rev P Phillips [17]

RT 16: Rev A Venn [23]

RT 17: Mr G Nixon [17]

Convener: Rev P Phillips [15]

Business Committee

[Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, 3 Members of Assembly not conveners of other reporting committees, Clerks of Presbyteries during Assembly]

RT 15: Rev P Mercer [19]

RT 16: Rev D Carroll [22]

RT 17: Mr K Childs [22]

Convener: Rev Dr J Hood [16] [Convener appointed for 3 years and eligible for reappointment, notwithstanding other regulations]

Christian Education And Nurture Committee

[11 Members, at least 6, including the convener, members of Assembly]

RT 15: Vacancy, Vacancy, Rev C S Kroeger [15]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev R White [22], Rev D Robertson [22], Mrs A Harvey [20]

RT 17: Vacancy, Mrs M Girgis [22], Rev D Assender [22], Rev H Lim [18]

Convener: Rev C S Kroeger [15]

Christian Schools Development Committee

Very Rev Dr A M Harman, Rev D Schulz, Rev C S Kroeger, Rev P Owen, Rev M Wishart, Mr J Bligh, Rev J Cho, Mrs A Withers.

Convener: Mr J Bligh

Church And Nation Committee

[10 Members]

RT 15: Rev M James [23], Mr J Ballantyne [15], Rev D Combridge [15], Mr B Palmer [20]

RT 16: Vacancy, Vacancy, Rev D R Middleton [19]

RT 17: Vacancy, Vacancy, Vacancy

Convener: Rev D R Middleton [19]

Church Planting Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 15: Rev R J O'Brien [15], Mr P Leslie [15]

RT 16: Rev D W Elliott [15], Vacancy

RT 17: Rev B P Johnson [21], Rev C B Garrett [22]

Convener: Vacancy

Clerkship Committee

Moderator (Convener), Law Agent, Convener Business Committee, Convener Maintenance of the Ministry Committee, Chairman of the Board of Investment and Finance, and the two Immediate Past Moderators.

Code And General Administration Committee

[3 Members, plus *ex officio* the Clerks of Assembly, Business Convener, Procurator, Law Agent, Chairman of Trusts Corporation]

RT 15: Mr P Barton [23]

RT 16: Rev G Nicholson [17]

RT 17: Mr B Stasse [23]

Convener: The Clerk Of Assembly

Conciliation Committee

[3 Ministers and 3 Elders appointed annually, plus the Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly as convener]

Ministers: Rev Dr R Carner [23], Rev P Orchard [17], Rev G Weber [19]

Elders: Mr V Vasiliades [23], Mr N Sharp [18], Rev B Downes [22]

Convener: Immediate Past Moderator of the Assembly

Defence Force Chaplaincy Committee

[3 Members, plus all full-time and part-time Australian Defence Force Chaplains serving in

Victoria]

RT 15: Mr J Cawood [22]

RT 16: Rev P Mercer [22]

RT 17 : Rev B Riding [16]

Convener: Rev M De Pyle [17]

Exit Students Committee

Convener of the Ministry Development Committee, Ministry Development Officer, Principal of the Presbyterian Theological College [or his faculty representative], Training Officer, Convener of the Church Planting Committee [whenever a Church planting placement is being considered], Convener of the Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee [whenever a chaplaincy placement is being considered], a representative of each candidate's Presbytery [preferably the convener of the Presbytery's Candidates' Committee or equivalent]

Convener: Convener of Ministry Development Committee

General Mission Program Committee

[6 Members]

RT 15: Mr R Lowe [15], Mr B Kilmartin [15],

RT 16: Rev P Court [19], Mr K Davidson [22]

RT 17: Rev G Vayne [21], Mr N Sharp [20]

Convener: Mr N Sharp [20]

Health and Community Chaplaincy Committee

[10 Persons]

RT 15: Vacancy, Rev P Chang [22], Mrs T Orchard [17], Mrs A Robertson [19]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev G Vayne [22], Rev P Court [22]

RT 17: Vacancy, Rev M Fagan [18], Rev C Le Page [18]

Convener: Rev M Fagan [18]

Maintenance Of The Ministry Committee

[6 Members]

RT 15: Mr R Butcher [16], Mr D Wright [22]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev K D W Allen [21]

RT 17: Rev M Crabb [21], Mr R Taylor [21]

Convener: Mr D Wright [21]

METRO Committee

[6 Members]

RT 15: Rev H Easton [22], Rev T McIntosh [22]

RT 16: Vacancy, Rev B Harvey [22]

RT 17: Rev C Le Page [19], Mr A May [17]

Convener: Mr A May [17]

Ministry Development Committee

[6 Members, plus the Convener]

RT 15: Rev G Vanderwert [22], Mr N Sharp [21]

RT 16: Mrs M Brennan [16], Rev A Slater [23]

RT 17: Dr B Ellis [20], Rev M Wishart [23]

Convener: Rev I Hutton [21]

Records Committee

[6 Members of Assembly, at least 3 Ministers]

RT 15: Vacancy, Vacancy
RT 16: Vacancy, Vacancy
RT 17: Vacancy, Vacancy
Convener: Vacancy

Safe Church – reference panel

Brian Harvey, Kathy James, Fiona Bligh

Social Services Committee

[Convener and 9 Members]

RT 15: Mr B Miller [18], Mr D Gibb [19], Mrs R Rodgers [21]
RT 16: Miss B Firth [15], Mr J Nuske [21], Mr B Evans [21]
RT 17: Mr D Wright [14], Miss R Strother [22], Mr G Hamilton [22]
Convener: Mr R Lowe [15]

State News Committee

[2 Ministers and 2 Elders]

RT 15: Rev N Harvey [18]
RT 16: Mr A Zirngast [22], Mr P Betts [19]
RT 17: Rev P Daffy [15]
Convener: Rev N Harvey [16]

Theological Education Committee

[10 Members, plus *ex officio* the Principal and another member of the Faculty]
RT 15: Rev P Owen [23], Rev B Oakes [15], Rev I H Barker [22], Mr C Manners [22]
RT 16: Vacancy, Rev K Maxwell [18], Mr B Georges [22]
RT 17: Rev N Benfell [23], Rev C Siriweera [22], Rev D Palmer [23]
Convener: Rev D Palmer [21]

Commission for Church Institutions

Moderator (chairman), Clerk of Assembly, Deputy Clerk, Business Convener, Law Agent, Rev Douglas Robertson, Ivan Barker, Andrew Bray, John Cho, Trevor Cox, Philip Daffy, Graham Nicholson, Chris Siriweera, Graeme Weber and elder Dr Robert Baldock, with five members to form a quorum.

Selection Committee

Rev Hui Lim (Rt 15), Rev Dr Robert Carner (Rt 16), Rev Dean Carroll (Rt 17), elder Reg Butcher (Rt 16), elder Noel Johnston (Rt 15)
NON-METRO: Rev Cameron Garrett (Convener), (Rt 16) Rev Neil Harvey (Rt 17)

GAA APPOINTMENTS

General Assembly of Australia Moderator-General Nominating Committee

[6 Members of Assembly: 3 Elders and 3 Ministers]

Mr N Sharp, Mr L Fraser, Mr J Angelico

Rev D Palmer, Rev G Weber, Rev M James

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

ACCESS Ministries

Rev G Lawry, Mrs A Thomas

CCAP Blantyre Synod Malawi

Trustee for Orbus: The Clerk of Assembly

Council For Chaplains In Tertiary Institutions

Mr P Leslie, Rev D Martin

Family Council Of Victoria

[Appointee to report to Assembly through the Church and Nation Committee]

Mrs J Manners

Leaders Of Churches

The Moderator and Immediate Past Moderator

Press Officer

The Moderator in consultation with the clerk of Assembly and the convener of the Church and Nation Committee

PWMU Cook Book Committee

Rev J Wilson

St Andrew's Foundation

Mrs M Conradi, Rev R O'Brien, Mr C Morrow

The Bible Society

Rev K D W Allen

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